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MEDAL

Established 1983

September 2020

Vol. 58 No. 08

ISSN 0958-4986

Medal News is published ten times per annum by

Token Publishing Limited,
40 Southernhay East, Exeter,
Devon EX1 1PE,
United Kingdom

Telephone: 01404 46972

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Website: www.tokenpublishing.com

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Printed in Great Britain by Buxton Press
"Environmental Printer of the Year".

Distributed to the Newstrade by
Select Publisher Services Ltd,
62, Wimborne Road, Bournemouth BH3 7AR

Medal News is available on subscription from the
publishers or from selected retail outlets.

Annual subscription rate:

£40 UK (£50 surface mail, £60 priority airmail).

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In the text, where appropriate, references to medals are as the *MEDAL YEARBOOK* reference numbers, i.e. MYB15 = Order of Merit, etc.

Next issue on sale: October 02, 2020

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in support of the collecting hobby



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Looking back at it

THE biggest story in the medal world this month has to be the decision of the Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison to recommend to Her Majesty the Queen that 18-year-old Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) should be posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions in December 1942 when he strapped himself to an anti-aircraft gun on board HMAS *Armidale* and carried on shooting at the Japanese fighters that had attacked the ship even as she sank (see "News and Views", page 6). That Sheean's actions were incredibly courageous is not in doubt, and for many years campaigners have fought to have his bravery recognised by a medallic honour. At the time only MiDs and the Victoria Cross were awarded posthumously and so Sheean simply wasn't eligible for another medal that might well have reflected his gallantry on that day; so the campaigners, his nephew Garry Ivory amongst them, have long fought for him to be awarded a VC. His case has been reviewed on a number of occasions; in 2013 an inquiry recommended against the award, a decision backed up by the British Ministry of Defence in 2017. Then in 2019 another tribunal recommended that it should be given, only to have PM Morrison reject that decision. He later backtracked by announcing that there would be a further review. This review has now decided that Sheean SHOULD receive the Victoria Cross, Mr Morrison has accepted that and made the recommendation. On August 12, 2020 Her Majesty approved the award, a first Victoria Cross for the RAN; although we may now be in the rather odd situation that Sheean could well be awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia, a decoration that simply didn't exist in its current form in 1942. This decision has been greeted with delight by many yet despair by others. Naturally, those campaigning for the bestowal of the award are over the moon but others fear that this will set a dangerous precedent and that now every disputed case will have to be looked at again. Could we see a sudden surge of new Victoria Cross awards? And if not the VC why not look at other medals instead? Gallantry medals are, today, awarded posthumously, why not backdate that and start recognising the heroism of those who died whilst performing their act of bravery? In short, the detractors say, we could now start seeing a huge amount of revisionism where decisions made at the time are overturned when looked at through the perspective of 21st century hindsight.

Those arguing against this latest decision point to numerous cases of similar heroism—of men manning machine gun posts to cover their comrades' retreat, of going down with a ship whilst still manning their posts, etc. They say that if Sheean is to be awarded a VC then there are dozens, if not hundreds, of similar cases that need re-examining. The problem we have is that any retrospective award made today for an action nearly eight decades ago is going to be viewed through the prism of our own experience, and that simply doesn't allow us the same perspective as those who made the original decision had. Look at Sheean's actions now and we immediately think he should be honoured, but if the panel looking at the original recommendation had had a dozen similar cases put before them that month then they would perhaps view the 18 year old's actions differently.

Long term MEDAL NEWS reader and contributor Mike Charteris, who first alerted us to the story and who is himself ex-RAN, vehemently disagrees with the detractors. His view is that *"the decisions made in regards to not awarding the Victoria Cross to Teddy Sheean and many other Australians during the conflicts we have fought in were incorrect and wrong. They robbed these men of what they truly deserved, as the string of decisions was made by people who were not even there. The citations stand up for themselves and should not be subject to a time warp under the term retrospective. If truly correcting a definite wrong from the past falls into and is categorised as 'retrospection' then so be it. The description of their actions is there for all to see, and the awarding of a Victoria Cross, though it be at a later date should not be ruled outright just because it is allocated the term retrospective"*.

Mike has a very good point, of course, but there is another worry. Sheean has a VC recommendation now because people fought for it, they fought long and hard and didn't back down. Are we therefore not in danger of seeing new awards made only because people demand them for long enough? After all, if Sheean's family hadn't lobbied for as long as they did then the original decision not to award the VC would have stood. What then of those who have no one to fight for their cause? No one to lobby and barrack for them? If we are to now start awarding more and more "retrospective" awards will we only give them to those who have a campaign behind their cause or will every case be looked at individually? I hardly think the latter is practical, we simply cannot revisit every single award ever given, or not, so that really only leaves the former, that awards, or the lack of them, are only looked at again when someone champions the cause, and that in itself is an injustice is it not? Perhaps leaving things alone may be a better option all round. What do our readers think?

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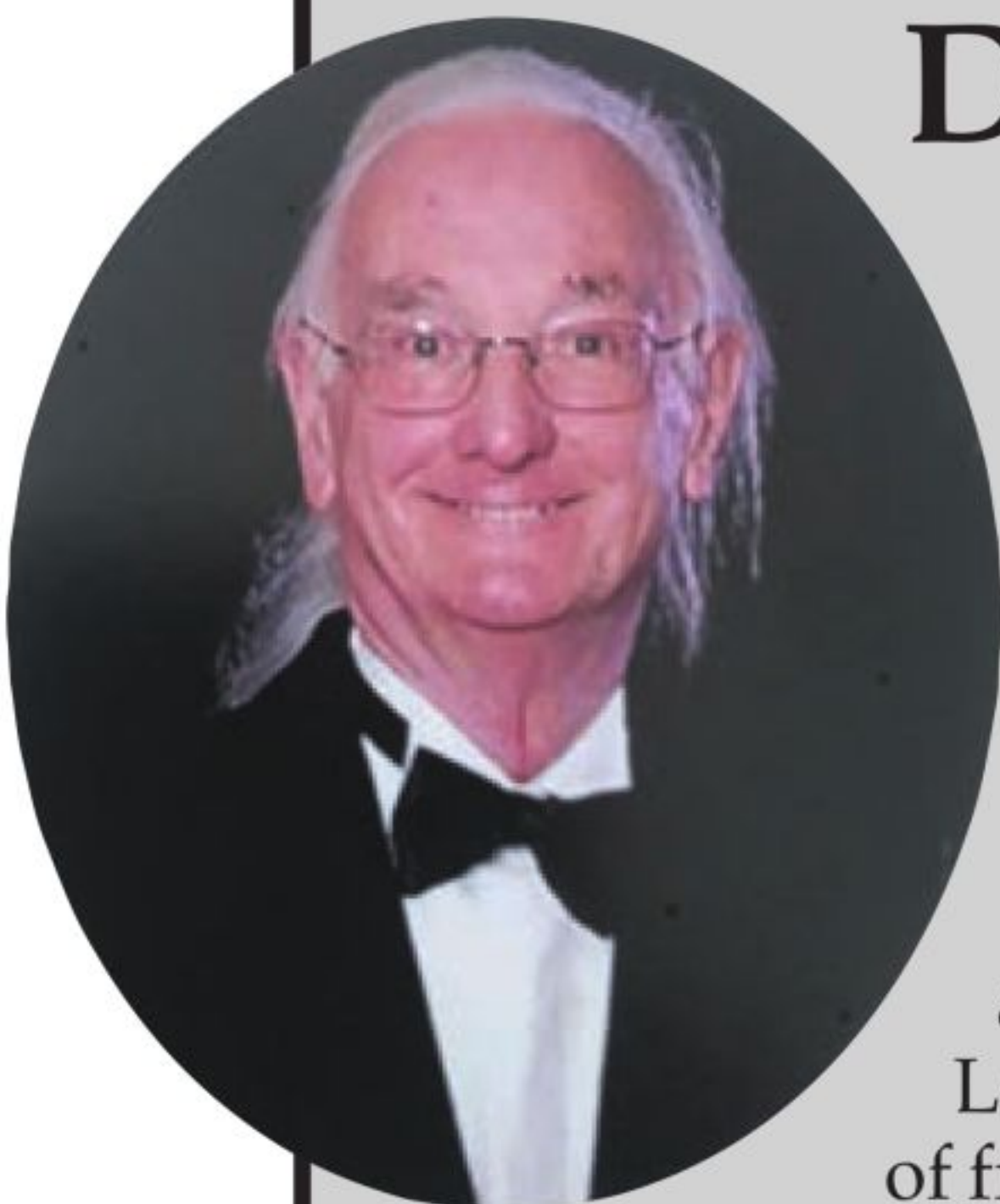


A FIRST VC FOR THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

IN A landmark decision on August 10, 2020, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced that he was recommending to Her Majesty the Queen that Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) be awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross some 78 years after the event, when he was just 18 years old. The decoration is to be awarded for Sheean's gallantry on December 1, 1942, when the ship on which he was serving, HMAS *Armidale*, came under attack by Japanese aircraft in the Timor Sea. As *Armidale* began to sink and the order was made to abandon ship, Sheean helped launch the lifeboats before strapping himself to an anti-aircraft gun to continue firing at the planes which were strafing the sailors in the water. He was last seen at his post, still firing, as the ship slid beneath the waves. He is credited with saving the lives of 49 of his fellow crewmen. Campaigners had long fought to see "justice done" as Sheean never received medallic recognition for his bravery (the VC and MiD were, at the time, the only posthumous awards available) and the case has been reviewed a number of times. In 2013 an inquiry found that his actions didn't "reach the particularly high standard required" and in 2017 the UK MoD again decided against awarding Sheean a VC. A review last year attempted to reverse that decision but Australian Minister for Defence, Linda Reynolds, rejected it on the grounds that no new evidence had been presented. Morrison backed up his Minister but called for a further review which has, in turn, recommended that the Victoria Cross should be awarded. Morrison accepted the review's findings and made the recommendation. On August 12 Her Majesty approved the award, the first Victoria Cross in the history of the RAN. It is believed that Sheean will be awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia (an award that didn't technically exist in 1942) rather than a "British" VC.



DAVID LLOYD RIP



IT IS with great sadness that we learn that David Lloyd has recently lost his long and courageous battle against illness. David was a staunch member of the Aldershot Militaria Society and had been their treasurer for over 35 years. He was also a member of the OMRS (membership number 1708) for over 40 years and was a regular attendee at the annual Conventions. But to many he is probably best known as the medal researcher's best friend at the National Archives at Kew where he spent much of his time and where he was always ready to help novice, inexperienced researchers. David was an enthusiastic medal collector who frequently attended the major London auction rooms and was always pleased to bid for items on behalf of friends. A quiet, unassuming man, David had a wicked sense of humour and was always pleased to chat about medals with fellow enthusiasts. He will be very much missed and warmly remembered as a true gentleman and passionate collector of the old school. Our sincere condolences go to his family.

Clive Elderton

Wakefield in September?

SADLY, despite the loosening of the rules regarding public gatherings, the owners of the Outwood Memorial Hall near Wakefield still haven't given Andrew Jukes a definitive date for the return of the Wakefield Medal Fair so the September show is definitely not going ahead. Andrew is, however, hopeful for October, so all eyes are on Sunday, October 4. Do please check www.themedalcentre.co.uk for updates.

Salisbury in September

WEDNESDAY, September 23, will see Woolley & Wallis of Salisbury's first Medal and Coin auction since the company re-opened in June, and it will feature several very notable lots. These include an example of the rare American Civil War "Colored Troops Medal"—also known as the "Butler Medal" after General Benjamin Butler, who instituted the award to recognise the bravery of 200 selected African American soldiers during the Battle of Chaffin's Farm (New Market Heights) in September 1864, (estimated to sell at £8,000–12,000) and a rare group including a Naval General Service medal 1909–62 to an officer of the Indian Army. Captain Richard Lockington Birdwood, estimated at £1,000–1,500. Both of these lots are described in full in MEDAL NEWS April 2020 page 8. Also on offer in September is the beautiful group of orders and medals awarded to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Thomas Bilbe Robinson, KCMG, GBE, KB, estimated at £2,500–4,000. Lt-Colonel Robinson was a British born Australian soldier, business magnate and public servant who is principally remembered for his outstanding achievements in securing supplies of meat for British and Commonwealth armed forces and civilians during World War I.

Woolley & Wallis continue to offer a glossy printed catalogue in addition to the usual online listings and welcome those who wish to view the sale, or bid, in person—the only change to normal procedure being that viewing will have to be booked in advance. For details contact Ned Cowell on 01722 341469 or email nc@woolleyandwallis.co.uk or Zoe Cordey on 01722 446980, email zc@woolleyandwallis.co.uk. also remains an option at this auction house. For details contact Ned Cowell on 01722 341469 or email nc@woolleyandwallis.co.uk or Zoe Cordey on 01722 446980, email zc@woolleyandwallis.co.uk.



Bust up

WHILST not actually directly medal related, readers may be interested to note that the Jack Webb Collection (part of which was consigned to Dominic Winter and part to DNW, see "News and Views", August 2020) has already attracted a great deal of attention, with a bust of Mary Seacole, the Jamaican born Crimean war era nurse, modelled by Count Gleichen, hammering for an astonishing £101,000 against a pre-sale estimate of just £700-1,000 when it came up for sale at Dominic Winter on July 30! The bust, which stands 12 inches high and depicts Seacole wearing Crimean medals (which she was actually never officially awarded, she was posthumously awarded the Jamaican Order of Merit in 1991), was, apparently, purchased by a film producer who is planning to use it as a prop in an forthcoming film on the nurse's life. After that it will be donated to the Mary Seacole Trust.



MEDAL YEARBOOK 2021

BECAUSE the OMRS Convention was cancelled this year there is no formal "launch date" for the new MEDAL YEARBOOK; however, it will be available from Monday, October 5! We are taking pre-orders now and once again we have managed to keep the price at £19.95 for the softback and £29.95 for the deluxe hardback (which also contains the current medals of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa in addition to all those covered in the softback book). For further details or to order your copy visit www.tokenpublishing.com



Charing Cross is back!

AFTER an enforced hiatus of four months, it was with great pleasure that Charing Cross Collectors' Market was once more able to open its doors to the public at the beginning of July. As was to be expected, the footfall was initially less than they had been used to but it wasn't long before the "buzz" was back and those who did attend reported that it was truly heartening to be in and amongst the rising hubbub of buying and selling once more. The market has been diligent with a number of Covid safety measures put in place so that everyone could focus on what was really important: the collecting! For those of you who haven't ever visited, Charing Cross Collectors' Market promises that a "warm welcome awaits in the very centre of London". It's a popular venue amongst collectors and enjoys a distinguished position as the only weekly Collectors' Market in the UK. Stamps, coins, medals, militaria, postcards, ephemera and antiques of all kinds can be found there every Saturday from 7am till 3pm. Experienced collectors, dedicated amateurs and first time beginners are to be found rubbing shoulders there, so to speak, once again so it's well worth a trip!



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Coming up at Dominic Winter

THE next specialist medals sale at Dominic Winter Auctioneers in Cirencester will be held on November 12, 2020. Already consigned is the impressive Army Gold Medal posthumously awarded to the family of Lt-Col. Charles Donellan, who commanded the 1st Battalion, 48th (Northamptonshire) Regiment of Foot during the Napoleonic Wars. Donellan was behind enemy lines when he was mortally wounded at the Battle of Talavera in 1809, he was to die in captivity a few days later. This rare medal, estimated at £15,000–20,000, has come to the auctioneers as part of a large collection which also includes Victorian campaign medals, a “Siege of Kut” Distinguished Conduct Medal and other gallantry awards. For further information please contact Henry Meadows on 01285 860006 or henry@dominicwinter.co.uk



A thank you from Korea

IN what surely must be one of the most touching stories of recent months we recently heard about a Korean War Veteran who, out of the blue, received a packet of medical face masks. The surprise package came from “The 70th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee” via the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in London. The accompanying letter explained *“When you risked your life in a strange country filled with gunfire, the strange people you saved were our grandfathers, grandmothers, fathers or mothers. Since then 70 years have already passed and many things have changed for these long years. You were young and great, and now are generous grandfathers or grandmothers, while the Republic of Korea, once with nothing left but ashes of war, is now a pretty great country. However what has never changed is that we all remember you and are grateful to you. We also believe that you still remember the Republic of Korea. When we support each other in one heart, we can ride out any challenges...We are especially concerned about the wellbeing of you who dedicated your youth to protecting the Republic of Korea, in this regard, we have prepared a token of appreciation. This can never match with the warm hands you extended to us, but we hope this will help you overcome the current crisis...we wish you and your families the very best of health in this challenging time. Thank you.”* Now if that doesn’t pull on your heart strings nothing will. Kudos Korea.

Medals in the antipodes

BRIGADIER-GENERAL Frederick Hugh Gordon Cunliffe’s group of 12 medals, including the CB, CMG, Commandeur Order National de la Legion d’Honneur and Officer, Order of St Maurice and St Lazarus, is the top offering in Mowbray Collectables on September 11, 2020 auction in Wellington, New Zealand.

Cunliffe (1861–1955) struggled to get a commission when seeking an Army career and served in the ranks from 1879 to 1889 before being commissioned into the Seaforth Highlanders. He served in the Hazara and Chitral campaigns in 1891 and 1895 and in 1902 he moved to an irregular force, Steinaecker’s Horse, in the Anglo-Boer War and then to the West African Frontier Force in 1904. During World War I he became Commanding Officer of the Nigeria Regiment.

British Nigerian troops in August 1914 were heavily defeated when attempting to capture German forts in the first Battle of Garua in the German Cameroons colony, their Commander and most British officers being killed and 40 per cent of native troops lost. Cunliffe became Commander in the north-west of Nigeria, won the second Battle of Garua in June 1915 and overcame another German stronghold at Banyo on November 6, 1915. With other British troops under General Dobell, German resistance in the Cameroons largely ended in February 1916 with the capture of Yaoundé. Cunliffe then led a contingent from the Nigeria Regiment to East Africa from November 1916 to March 1918 as temporary Brigadier-General, becoming honorary Brigadier-General on retirement in 1919. The group is estimated at \$NZ6,000.

The sale also offers the Indian Mutiny medal awarded to Frederick Cunliffe’s father, Major-General George Gordon Cunliffe (estimate NZ\$1,000) who as a lieutenant led the Kumaon Levy in 1857/58 after its original Commander, Captain Samuel Brown (after whom the Sam Brown belt is named), was wounded in the Battle of Seerporah, being awarded a VC for his actions. F. H. G. Cunliffe’s wife’s British War Medal and his daughter’s MBE (1958) group, including Red Cross service, also feature.

Also of interest are the 179 medal lots from the collection of the late Brian Connor of Dunedin, New Zealand. These include the Waterloo Medal to James Arundle, 10th Royal Regiment of Hussars (estimate NZ\$2,000) and the Queen’s South Africa Medal (clasp *Natal*) to AB R. W. Sims, HMS *Forte*, which is estimated at NZ\$1,000. Sims is better known as a Petty Officer on Submarine E7 which in 1915 sunk 13 Turkish vessels in the Dardanelles, an action for which he was awarded the DSM. Unsurprisingly, New Zealand medals make up the majority of Mowbray’s offering, including three Military Medals, a Military Cross, and family groups, including a family pair of a New Zealand Medal to Henry Elston (Forest Rangers), and Queen’s South Africa Medal to his son, Samuel Elston (estimated at NZ\$1,600). For further details visit www.mowbraycollectables.com.



Three decades on the Token Team

HOW time flies when you are having fun! On July 9, 2020 Token Publishing Ltd Director, Carol Hartman, celebrated 30 years with the company. On reaching the milestone, she commented: "How much has changed over the past three decades. When I joined the company, we thought we were the bee's knees when we set up a dark room and giant process camera to produce our own photographs for the magazines. Only a few years later, a little thing called a scanner came along and our dark room was obsolete! Even the revolutionary scanner is now gathering dust as the internet and new technology has taken over the whole process of supplying text and images. This is a family business and the staff too are a part of that 'family' as we are a close-knit team. In fact, the collecting community as a whole feels like one extended family as I have made so many friends within the hobby over the years, both dealers and collectors, that not being able to attend any fairs recently to see everyone has been a very sad aspect of the situation we all find ourselves in. So here is to the next 30 years—whatever they may bring!"



Aldershot Exhibition POSTPONEMENT

UNFORTUNATELY, due to the ongoing Coronavirus situation, the annual exhibition of the Military Historical Society and Aldershot Militaria Society, originally due to take place on Sunday, September 27, has been postponed. No alternative date has yet been decided upon but we will let you know of any developments as soon as we hear them!

Medals in the Midlands

ALTHOUGH not traditionally a medal show, the Midland Coin Fair at the National Motorcycle Museum near the NEC, Birmingham, often has a fine selection of medals on offer. Obviously the show hasn't been going ahead over the past few months but the organisers are planning on coming back, full steam ahead, in October. Taking place in the larger Britannia Suite at the venue on Sunday, October 11, from 9.30am, it is likely that social distancing measures will still be necessary and numbers are likely to be limited, therefore all potential visitors MUST pre-register at www.coinfairs.co.uk or call 01694 731781.

Whether pre-registration is necessary for the Stratford Show, due to take place on October 25 at the Leisure Centre in the heart of town, remains to be seen. Organiser Mark Carter is confident that the show will go ahead but is waiting to see what measures he has to put in place before any formal announcement is made, so is asking everyone to check in at www.tokenpublishing.com to keep updated. We will, of course, bring you more news next month too.

Medals & Military History 12 November 2020

Further Entries Invited

The Army Gold Medal to Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Donellan, 48th (Northamptonshire) Regiment of Foot, who, mortally wounded at the Battle of Talavera 1809, took off his hat and gave command of the regiment to Major Middlemore, saying, "you will have the honour of leading the 48th to the charge". Lieutenant-Colonel Donellan died in captivity a few days later.

Estimate: £15,000-20,000

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Locked out, still in

AS reported in last month's "Auction Roundup", sales are continuing apace despite the vagaries and inconveniences of the enforced Lockdown imposed on us and of course, the auction houses themselves. It certainly seems strange that as many if not more lots are crossing the auction block during Lockdown than before and in most cases lots can't be viewed before the sale other than "virtually" (isn't it amazing how these words are coming into everyday use?) and no-one other than the auctioneer and sometimes members of their staff are in actual attendance at the sale! However, business is good and there has been plenty of variety available as well as some extraordinary prices achieved in these extraordinary times.

Over the years LOCKDALES have made a name for themselves with their regular programme of valuation days taking place around the country. These travelling events have always attracted plenty of material but surprisingly even though the Lockdown has stopped them for the time being, their auctions still offer a wide range of material. The **July 4-5** sale was notable for the Edward Medal awarded to miner Benjamin Kelly who rescued a number of his colleagues following a mud rush at the Big Hole diamond mine in Kimberley, South Africa, on January 30, 1909. His was one of only 77 silver first-class medals ever awarded. Offered mounted as worn and in its original case, his medal sold for a total of £4,134 including the 19.5 per cent Buyer's Premium (BP).



Another lot with South African connections was the British South Africa Company Medal with Rhodesia 1896 reverse and the *Mashonaland* 1897 clasp, both the clasp and the medal engraved to Corporal E. Hutchinson, BSA Police, which realised a total of £657 against an estimate of £350-450.



An unusual item was lot 1326, a group of three medals to a member of the Indian Royal Air Force that sold well over its estimate for £705 (estimate £70-80). The trio comprised the 1935 Jubilee Medal, 1937 Coronation Medal and Volunteer Force Long Service Medal (George V), named to Sgt W. H. Lewis, Chota Nag. R.A.F.I.

Also worthy of mention was the South Atlantic Medal with rosette with a Naval LSGC (QEII) to a member of the crew of HMS *Splendid*, one of the first submarines to reach the Falkland Islands in April 1982. The pair sold for £1,702.



Auction round-up

DIX NOONAN WEBB's policy of holding monthly sales of 850 lots seems to be doing well, with plenty of variety on offer in their sale on **July 16**. There were a number of highflyers, including the legendary "Arnhem" Military Cross group of ten to Colonel Bernard Briggs, 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment which, estimated at £36,000–44,000, made the sale's top figure of £54,560. The sale total was £888,510 with only four lots remaining unsold.



Among the other lots to achieve five figures was the Field Officer's Small Army Gold Medal with *Toulouse* clasp and Military General Service Medal with three clasps (*St Sebastian, Nivelle, Nive*) to the man who is even today celebrated in the officers' mess of the Royal Regiment of Artillery as "The Man who Burned Down the White House". Following service in which he had distinguished himself in the final battles of the Peninsula as a battery commander, Captain, later General Sir John Michell, Royal Artillery, commanded the artillery at the capture of Washington DC in August 1814, during which his men torched every public building in the city in reprisal for the burning of York (now Toronto) in Canada. His medals, estimated at £24,000–28,000, sold at the top figure, which with the 24 per cent BP added made a total of £34,720.



A collection of 28 South Atlantic Medals on offer certainly attracted the bids with most selling over estimate. The top price in the collection was £1,612, achieved for a single medal to an able seaman serving aboard the ill-fated HMS *Coventry*. Although two of the lots were withdrawn before the sale the collection totalled £22,295 with BP. However, it was a special example that appeared elsewhere in the sale that really stood out: this was the medal to Lieutenant-Commander Rodney Frederiksen, pilot of the Sea Harrier from HMS *Hermes*, who led the surprise raid on Goose Green airfield on the opening day of hostilities. His medal with its MiD oakleaf and rosette was sold with other related items including two awards denoting Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air, for a total of £22,320..



A "Battle of the Imjin River" MM group of eight with an amazing fighting citation to a Trooper of the 8th Battalion King's Royal Irish Hussars was estimated at £8,000–10,000 but not surprisingly realised a total of £16,120. The recipient was the driver of a Centurion tank fitted with top secret equipment when the tank was hit and the order to abandon was given. However, he failed to hear the command and managed to extricate himself and save the tank.

A theme that attracted plenty of collectors was the large number of Queen's South Africa Medals on offer. Although there was a good selection amongst the rest of the sale, most were singles lotted as collections of "Medals to the Royal Navy", "Medals for the Defence of . . ." and "for the Relief of . . ." and all sold well with prices ranging from £130 up to £1,700 hammer. However, it was one among the QSAs in a small collection of "Medals to War Correspondents" that took the top price of £2,400 hammer. The price paid with BP was £2,976 for the double issue to J. N. Greenlees, correspondent for *The Times* during the Boer War. It is not clear just why he had an officially re-impressed single with no clasps together with his four-clasp (*Cape Colony, Wepener, Transvaal, Wittebergen*) entitlement but it added interest as well as value!



In addition to the collections already mentioned there were plenty of single campaign medals included in the sale and as expected the Naval General Service Medals 1793–1840 stole the limelight with some good prices, especially for the rare clasps. For example, a single-clasp medal with the rare *Comus 15 Augt 1807* clasp (pictured left) took the top price of £27,280 despite carrying a reasonable estimate of £14,000–18,000. This clasp is one of just 10 examples known to have been issued for the successful action with the Danish frigate *Frederiksvaern*. The three-clasp medal to a Midshipman aboard HMS *Active* for all three actions estimated at £7,000–9,000 also surpassed the pre-sale estimate. The medal, with clasps for *28 June Boat Service 1810, Lissa and Pelagosa 29 Novr 1811*, sold for a total of £11,780.



The sale held by SPINK on July 29–30 was another blockbuster, with 99 per cent of the 1,276 lots on offer finding new homes. Prices were in the most part in line with the pre-sale estimates although there were many surprising results. Interestingly the sale featured plenty of gallantry awards including important Battle of Britain groups and medals to submariners which attracted some spirited bidding. The second day of the sale was devoted mostly to a huge selection of world orders and decorations which attracted a great deal of attention as did the small selection of space exploration memorabilia.

The sale got off to a fine start with an example of the unusual and very rare "Red Hot Shot Medal", a medal whose history is unclear although it is known that it was given to participants in the siege of the small British garrison at Gibraltar by the French and Spanish forces from 1779 to 1783. The medal commemorates the success of the British in firing red hot shot at the enemy ships thus setting fire to them and helping secure the success of the garrison. The medal, one of only ten known examples, sold for a total of £2,520 with 20 per cent BP.



Private J. Fitzgibbon of the 8th Dragoons was tragically killed in the legendary Charge of the Light Brigade in the Crimea having already seen action at the Alma and Sebastopol. His officially impressed medal with its three clasps (*Alma, Balaklava, Sebastopol*) was in superb condition and sold for a hammer price of £8,500.



The triple gallantry group of ten to World War II Spitfire "Ace" Group Captain Arthur Donaldson, RAF, one of the celebrated three Donaldson brothers who all received the DSO, was one of the highlights of the sale. During his busy flying career he saw plenty of action, first with Whirlwinds when he was hit by flak and only just managed to get home with his flying helmet "cut in two". Later he was wounded flying his Spitfire against a formation of enemy fighters during the Siege of Malta, but again managed to get back to base, despite the loss of two fingers and with head and foot wounds. His magnificent group sold for a grand total of £21,600.



A fine group of four medals awarded to Mr W. P. "Bill" Ker, CMG, who was Vice-Consul and Second Chinese Secretary at the British Legation during the siege of Peking, later a long-served Consul-General at Tientsin, realised a total of £15,840 against an estimate of £8,000–10,000. His group comprised the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George, CMG, Companion's breast badge in its R. & S. Garrard & Co. case of issue (not illustrated); China 1900 medal with *Defence of Legations* clasp; Coronation 1911 medal; and China, Republic, Presidential Inauguration Commemorative Medal of Yuan Shi-kai as the first President, October 10, 1913.

£15,120 was the total price paid for the excessively rare Northern Kurdistan Military Cross and Waziristan 1925 group of nine awarded to Air Chief Marshal Sir Claude Pelly, GBE, KCB, MC, RAF. His MC is one of only two awarded for the campaign in Northern Kurdistan in 1931–32. Pelly is reputed to have successfully retrieved a working wireless set from a stampeding mule and used it to liaise with circling aircraft, enabling them to machine gun forces loyal to Shaikh Ahmed of Barzan and thus prevent the total destruction of a British-led column.



Spink's foray into space travel memorabilia offered the chance to add a cosmonaut's watch to the collection as two were included in the sale. Lot 656 was the the NII Chasprom wristwatch worn by Pavel Belyayev on the legendary Voskhod 2 Space Expedition in March 1965 when he was captain for the first spacewalk in history. His wristwatch sold for £15,840. However, this was eclipsed by the wristwatch belonging to the legendary Yuri Gagarin, the first man into space. His Rodina watch with an engraved inscription on the back realised a total of £27,600. In April 1961 Gagarin was the first man to cross into outer space but he died in a tragic flying accident just seven years later.

The prices realised quoted above include the Buyer's Premium, charged at the relevant rate.

VAT is also payable on the Premium.

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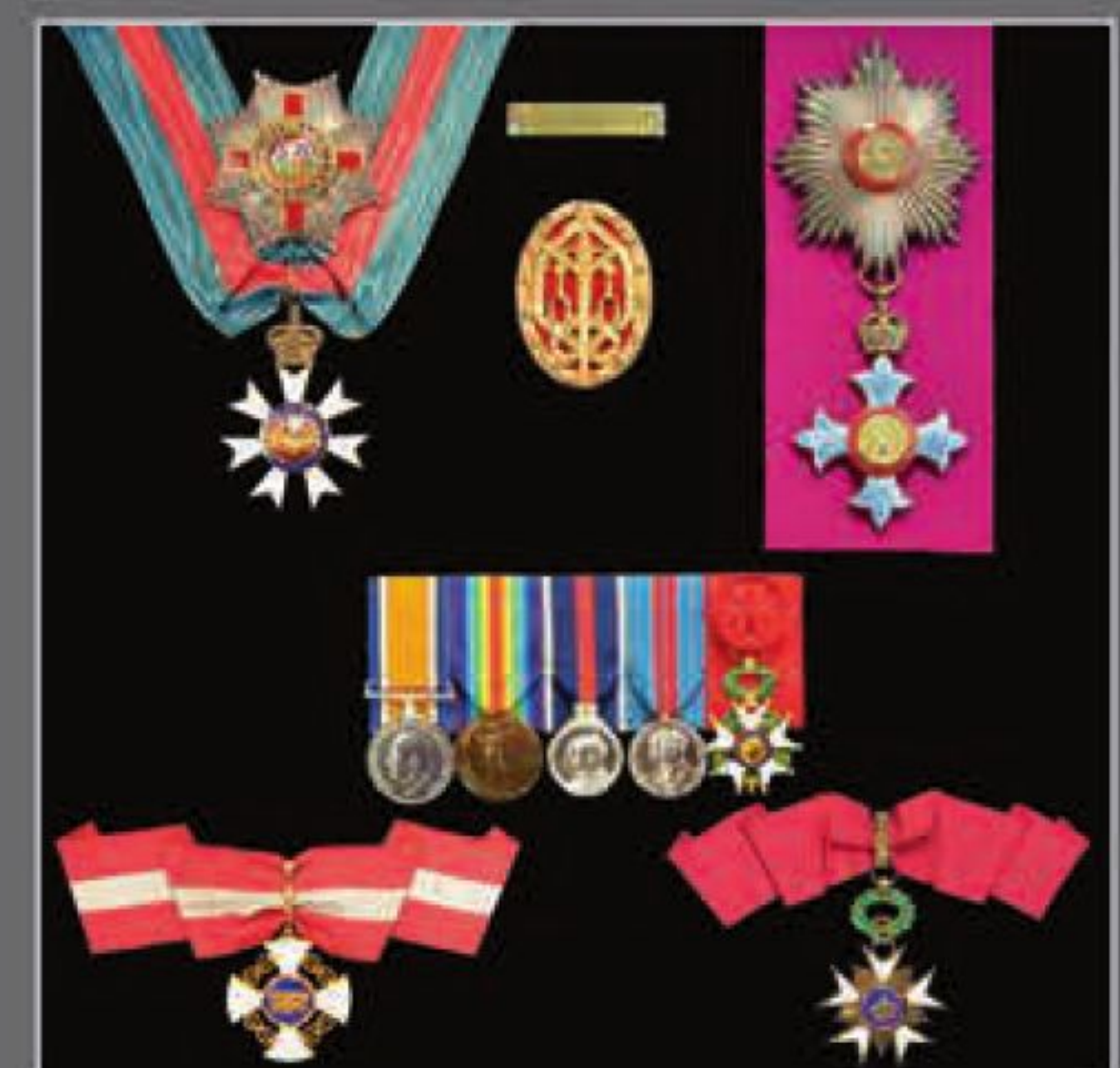
The rare Naval General Service Medal group of six
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The magnificent group of orders and
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Bilbe Robinson, K.C.M.G., G.B.E., K.B
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Museum Treasures AT THE NAM

We are delighted that following popular demand the National Army Museum have agreed to share some of their treasures with us each month. We start the new series with an unusual award introduced to us by BELINDA DAY the Museum's Senior Curator, Collections Development and Review:

A well-deserved BEM

RECENTLY the National Army Museum purchased a British Empire Medal from Dixon's Ltd. There are a number of British Empire Medals in the collection but this one was of interest because of who it had been awarded to. It was awarded to Warrant Officer, Platoon Commander (WOPC) Mulandi Mutie (3/R/1023) of 2/3 (23rd) Battalion King's African Rifles for his outstanding service, particularly during the Kenyan Emergency (1952–60) otherwise known as the Mau Mau Uprising.

Until this medal was acquired, the National Army Museum did not hold a British Empire Medal which had been awarded to an African member of the King's African Rifles.

His citation in the *London Gazette* from 1956 reads:

"This African Warrant Officer has served for seventeen years in the King's African Rifles, and he has served throughout the emergency in the field. On numerous occasions both in the forest and in the reserve he has commanded his platoon, displaying complete disregard for his own safety in dogged perseverance in leading his men against the terrorists. His very high standard of personal discipline and high sense of duty have been a constant inspiration to all ranks in his company and in the battalion. From April to June he was on constant operations in the Aberdare Forest and by his dogged perseverance and determination he kept the morale of his platoon at such a high pitch their efforts never flagged. A strict disciplinarian, yet his loyalty and cheerfulness often in adverse and dangerous situations have earned him the respect of all with whom he has served."

WOPC Mulandi Mutie had served with 2/3 Battalion in Palestine as a Sergeant during the post-World War II Zionist conflict, which ultimately resulted in the establishment of Israel. This experience of operating in a violent and highly inflammatory atmosphere would have been good experience for operating in Kenya during the Emergency.

The Kenyan Emergency was one of the many conflicts which occurred after World War II which led to countries formerly part of the British Empire achieving independence. The Mau Mau freedom fighters were the militant wing of Kenya's growing political independence movement formed in 1944. The lack of success of the political movement encouraged the militants towards more direct action against British rule. 2/3 Battalion of the King's African Rifles relieved 3 Battalion in Kenya, as the 3rd were posted to Malaya in early 1952.

2/3 Battalion was responsible for mounting a Company Guard on the Royal Residence when Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II) and Prince Philip visited Kenya. The Battalion was still in training when in October 1952 Mau Mau militants successfully attacked and killed several European settlers, causing a State of Emergency to be declared. Operating out of their base at Nanyuki, 2/3 Battalion took part in many of the frustrating early operations which provided the developing battalion with an excellent training ground for the future, more challenging, operations they participated in during the Kenyan Emergency.

In 1953 2/3 Battalion moved to Langata Camp, Nairobi for operations at Fort Hall and Kiambu. Many of these operations were in conjunction with 3 and 5 Battalions and mentions can be found in 3 Battalion's War Diaries of occasions when 2/3 Battalion were responsible for capturing or killing Mau Mau militants and recovering their equipment and documents.

The Battalion moved to Karatina, within the South Nyeri Reserve, a Mau Mau stronghold, in late 1953 where they continued to operate until 1956. This was a period of high intensity operations, constant patrols, sweeps and ambushes which tested 2/3 Battalion, leaving them exhausted. During 1954, 2/3 Battalion captured General Kalega who revealed a great deal of intelligence regarding the Mau Mau organisation in the Nyeri and Mount Kenya areas which was used to plan further operations by the King's African Rifles in these regions.

July 1955 saw 2/3 Battalion, along with 5 and 7 Battalions presented with their colours. The pace of operations, however, was still high and it was during this period that WOPC Mulandi Mutie was awarded his British Empire Medal. The *Journal of the King's African Rifles* (held in the collection of the National Army Museum) mentions WOPC Mulandi Mutie and his colleague WOPC McPhail as two servicemen who: *"... did much to keep our spirits up in those exhilarating, wearying but not to be forgotten days."*

After three years operating in the South Nyeri Reserve 2/3 Battalion moved to the Lake Naivasha area of the Great Rift Valley.

Gradually the Mau Mau uprising was brought under control and although the



Mau Mau were still active up to Kenyan Independence, it was considered that there was no longer any need for 2/3 Battalion to remain in existence. In October 1957, a farewell parade was held at Government House, Nairobi for 2/3 Battalion and Regimental Sergeant Major Mulandi Mutie was the RSM on parade. On December 14, 1957, 2/3 Battalion was amalgamated into 3 Battalion. 3 Battalion took over the care of 2/3 Battalion's silver, property and colours until such time that it would be needed again.

Mutie retired from the King's African Rifles in 1959 and had joined the Kenyan Tribal Police by 1960. The independence of Kenya in 1964 followed by the independence of the rest of Africa, saw the demise of the King's African Rifles as there was no longer a need for the Army to have a presence there. However, the Kenyan Emergency and the King's African Rifles left many memories and scars on the people of both nations, resulting in the Mau Mau Uprising still being a difficult subject for people today.

Collecting material from recent history, particularly around controversial or difficult subjects is really important for the National Army Museum as it puts us in a good position to discuss challenging topics such as the dissolution of the British Empire and its impact on those directly involved as well as its wider impact on global politics and through community engagement create a better understanding of the subject, which can then be disseminated to a wide audience. Currently we have objects relating to the Kenyan Emergency on display in our Battle Gallery.

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LAWRENCE EASTERBROOK

Men behind the medals: Designs and designers of the British medals from the World Wars

WHILST many people rightly place importance on the men behind the medals in terms of who won the medals, scant attention so far has been paid to the men who commissioned and designed the medals.

Attitudes to war: From jingoism to pragmatism?

Who decided whether medals should be awarded and why? What designs were chosen and what were the reasons for those designs? By asking these questions, we can begin to appreciate the meaning behind the medals and what they reveal about our attitudes to war. Such an approach is still pertinent today, a remarkable example being the furore in 2013 over whether to add the Bomber Command clasp to the 1939–45 star (a medal issued to all combatants), in view of the heavy loss of German civilians from bombing. This approach also reveals a marked evolution in attitudes to war from World War I to World War II.

In the aftermath of World War I, attempts to explain the war via classical imagery, religious justification and the portrayal of individual heroism reflect the continuation of pre-war, Edwardian, sentiments. After World War II, attitudes shifted: classical imagery was absent, religious justification minimised, prose was plainer in style, and representations tended to emphasise the dreadful cost of peace, perhaps a reflection of the view that “to write lyric poetry after Auschwitz is barbaric”.

Recognising loyalty and exceptional service: the production of medals

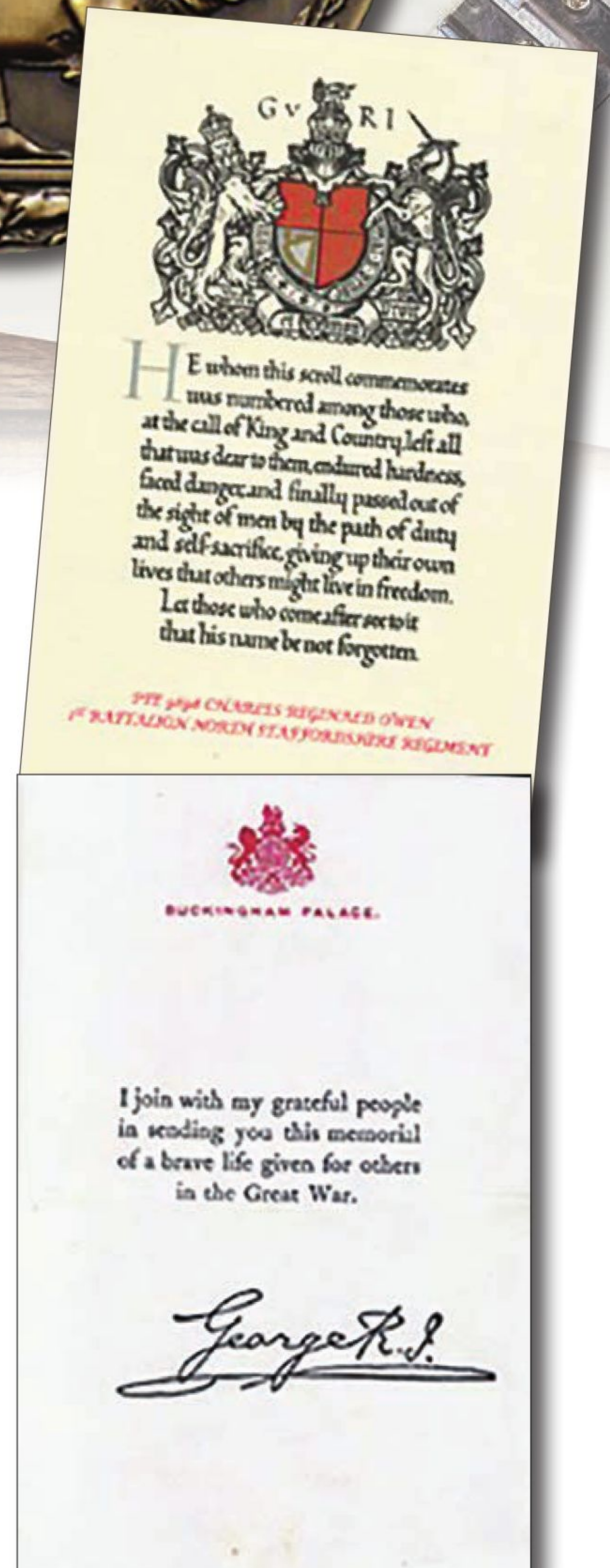
Awards for service have existed for millennia, and from antiquity honours such as body decorations, crowns, wreaths or military gifts were given to soldiers and athletes. In the Middle Ages honours were bestowed on members of religious or military orders. The emergence of standardised medals in the

19th century arose from several factors—a greater public awareness of the costs of war, technological advances in medal production, a growing literacy rate, and the development of a professional army. The army’s loyalty to a nation-state rather than the local lord or monarch, brought with it a need to communicate this new link between the individual and the nation-state. The issuing of medals en masse was a part of this development, especially as the medals were designed to be worn publicly by veterans.

World War I medals: harking back to a Victorian worldview?

The design of World War I medals reflects late-Victorian and Edwardian sentiments. The Victory Medal and the World War I plaque both contain militaristic images of victory. A commemorative object (to thank families for their relatives’ sacrifices) was discussed as early as 1916, finally taking the form of a plaque, possibly because of the scale of losses and the introduction of conscription. The then Secretary of State for War, David Lloyd George, established a committee to choose a design: this was an all-male General Committee drawn from the Houses of Parliament and relevant government offices, with a sub-committee involving Directors of the National Gallery and Victoria and Albert Museum to advise on technical and artistic matters after an open competition.

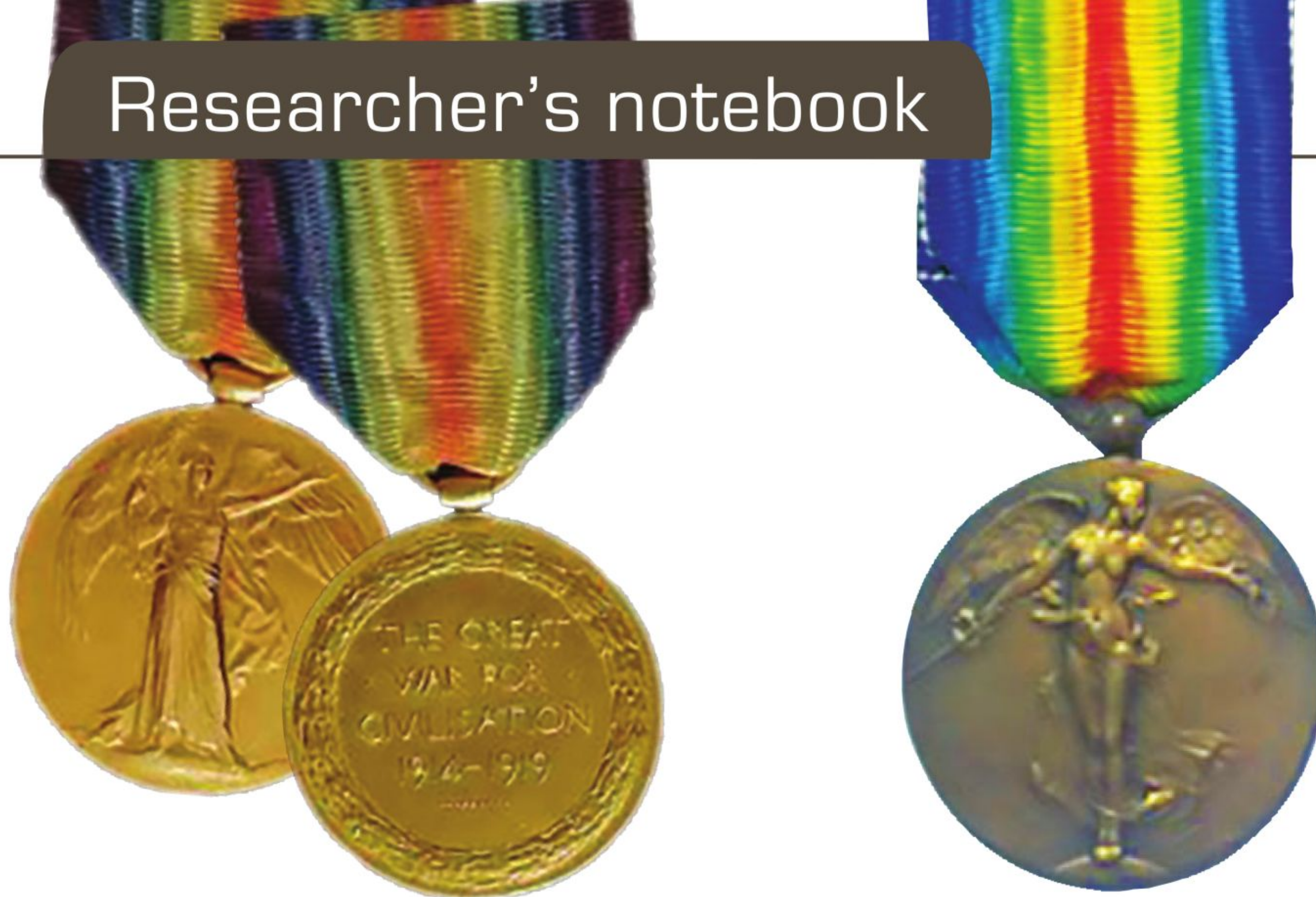
The committee chose E. C. Preston’s design. It features a classical image of Britannia, with a trident in her right hand and with her left hand holding a laurel leaf over the name of the deceased. There is a lion in front of Britannia, “striding forward in a menacing attitude”. Its aggressive posture is matched by a second lion in the exergue slaying an eagle. Oak leaves—used to represent faith, power, endurance and strength in both World War I and World War II—are to the right of the lion, a dolphin either side of Britannia, and around the curve is the inscription



World War I Memorial plaque with accompanying scroll and letter.

“He died for Freedom and Honour”. The language used on the plaque and in the scroll and message is highly ornate, with grand statements reminiscent of classical poetry, such as Simonides’ *Epitaph for the Spartans*.

Similarly high-flown language is also evident on the World War I Victory medal, an Inter-Allied medal suggested by the French Marshal Ferdinand Foch, supreme commander of the Allied forces. The design



Victory appears on the obverse of the British medal holding a palm branch. On the Belgian and other medals (right) she is holding a sword.

is based on that of an 1870 medal issued after the Franco-Prussian war—a conflict which France had lost, thereby making this new medal a rebuke to the German forces. The medal was designed by W. McMillan, without open competition, no doubt because of McMillan's reputation and the need to act quickly. The commissioning committee (established by the Army Council) consisted of leading figures from the Royal Academy, the Sculptors' Society, the National Gallery, the British Museum and the Royal Mint, but there was little consultation with Parliament. The inscription on the medal: "The Great War for Civilisation", conveys a jingoistic view of victory: that of decent, principled and civilised people over barbaric nations. Quite a claim when one considers the hideous weaponry used on both sides and described in the poetry and memoirs of the time. The ribbon is a rainbow

with the colour of sunrise in the middle representing Allied forces' flags and the calm after the storm of war. The image of a winged Victory owes its look to classical and traditional imagery, although it is a less militaristic and dominating Victory than others: for example in the Belgian version Victory holds a sword, whereas the British version features a palm branch.

Like the Inter-Allied Victory medal, the design of the British War Medal (BWM) is replete with celebratory symbols. The medal, designed in 1919, was also by W. McMillan and was chosen by a Committee set up by the Army Council. The reverse shows a nude St George on horseback, holding a sword and trampling on a shield decorated with a Prussian coat of arms. To the left of the shield is a skull and crossbones—representing the end of the carnage. In the distance are waves and a sunrise of victory. The figure of a male

on a horse was chosen on the grounds that men had borne the brunt of the war's destruction. It also represented man controlling a force greater than his own, the drawn sword making the image overtly militaristic. McMillan's own description is much shorter: the medal is "*an allegory of the physical and mental strength which achieves victory over Prussianism. The horse tramples on the Prussian shield and on the skull and cross-bones, the emblem of piracy.*"

In contrast to the medals described above, the creation of the 1914 and 1914–15 stars was heavily promoted by George V. The King desired a medal for those who responded early to the call to arms. He presided over the star's design with the 1914 Star Committee (again male-led and drawn from Parliament and the Armed Forces)—the only medal that had such direct involvement from a monarch. William Henry James Blakemore of the Royal Mint was commissioned—without competition, no doubt because of the need for speedy production.

It is a four-pointed star with two Roman short swords crossing, a laurel wreath containing the dates within flowing scrolls and a crown atop the star; the ribbon is composed of the red, white and blue colours of the flag of the United Kingdom. The swords suggest a direct link to classical Rome, the laurel is a classical image of victory, and the ornate scrolls with the dates can be compared to the simpler bar designs for the World War II stars. The subsequent re-use of the 1914 design for the 1914–15 star suggests that the planning of awards and medals for soldiers was not fully thought through by the Government at the time: the same designs were used for medals which represented several very different theatres of war.

British War Medal
1914–1920.



1939-45
British War
Medal.



Other proposed designs for the
1939-45 British War Medal (courtesy the National Archives).

World War II medals: how to commemorate new horrors?

There was no World War II memorial plaque, most probably because of the shortage of metal, the earlier introduction of conscription and the higher participation of civilians. Debates in Parliament throughout 1944 reveal that politicians felt the need to distribute medals to all those involved in Britain's defence. The closest World War II medals came to using text on a medal was the Defence Medal, where one idea had been to print a note from King George on the reverse simply reading "Thank you" (it was never used).

When the Royal Mint held an internal competition for its design, the submissions exhibited little militarism, few signs of victorious celebration and no emblems of death. The successful design was by the medallist and engraver H. Wilson Parker, who had previously designed the 1936 India General Service Medal. On the reverse is the royal crown resting on an oak sapling, surrounded by a female and male lion above stylised waves. At the top left is the year "1939", with "1945" at the top right, and in the exergue "THE DEFENCE MEDAL". The ribbon has two outside green bands containing a black stripe down the middle, while the middle band is flame-coloured to represent the destruction wrought by the Blitz.

An emphasis on defence and non-aggression rather than victory and celebration is reflected in the depiction of two lions protecting a vulnerable sapling. A simple defensive emblem was favoured at an early stage by the Royal Mint and the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals (CGHDM), with a portcullis being suggested. Other designs showed a lion in aggressive poses, which was rejected by the Committee, thereby indicating that the Committee did not desire a medal on the lines of the BWM. Great care was also taken to make the design as inclusive as possible; for example, the cliffs of Dover and Big Ben were rejected as being too English, whereas the inclusion of a female and a male lion indicated that both genders had been involved in the war effort. The symbols of royalty continued, a feature that remained unchanged in both wars.

After World War II, no Victory Medal, inter-allied or otherwise, was issued in Britain. A Victory Medal was suggested but discussions with the USSR and the USA failed, due to the political differences between the two powers. Instead the British War Medal 1939–45 was issued. The ribbon's colours simply mirror those of the Union flag; the design shows a lion trampling a double-headed dragon representing Germany and Japan, with the dates "1939–45". The design was unanimously chosen after an open competition won by E. C. Preston, who had also designed World War I medals.

The methods of sourcing designs and designers of medals remained similar after



Defence Medal 1939-45. The winning design by H. Wilson Parker.



Other proposed designs for the Defence Medal (courtesy of the National Archives).



both World Wars, as well as during the inter-war period, suggesting a continuity in the attitudes of the authorities towards the source of designs. In Preston's case, his long association with the Royal Mint, and the respect the latter held for his work, led to his designs being chosen in both wars. His war medal designs after World War II were less classical than those of World War I, demonstrating more progressive ideas on medal design.

Unlike the Victory Medal, the British War Medal 1939–45 shows few militaristic features. For example, the CGHDM rejected the image of Victory on the grounds that it had been over-utilised; similarly, St George had already been used in the previous war. After this war, CGHDM was more conscious of the political effects of medal design. In the original design the third wolf's head had represented Italy. This was rejected, due to Italy's Allied status from 1943, and the possible political repercussions of depicting Italy as an adversary on the scale of Germany and Japan. Militaristic aggression is also absent from the design: the image of the proud lion over the dragon simply appears as the restoration of the natural order. The ribbon is less symbolic than that of the Victory Medal, simply depicting the British flag as representative of its armed forces. The World War II Stars, such as the 1939–45 Star, were of an even simpler design, stating only the theatre of war the soldier took part in around a George VI cipher, with certain bars added to different stars. Designs of bars with an ornate look were also rejected for that of a simple rectangular shape.



1939-45 Star.

From allegorical to apt: comparing medals from the two wars

World War I medals used victorious and celebratory language and presented war as noble. The World War II designers opted for simple, direct prose, which—even so—was eventually rejected. Changes in approach occurred because the sole committee, CGHDM, although still all male, had, unlike the medal committees of World War I, a wider membership drawn from broader sections of society. Moreover, it consulted other governmental departments and conducted research into medal design and distribution, which included canvassing the opinions of the public.

In contrast, the issuing of medals for World War I was decided by different committees for each medal. This meant that the medals varied in their representation of war. World War II's centralised committee was consistent in its more pragmatic, practical, non-celebratory and non-victorious attitudes to war in the medals' design. Despite some designers producing medals for both wars, they had absorbed the non-celebratory and non-victorious sentiments of World War II and constructed the medals' images accordingly.

The predominant attitude now was an acknowledgement of sacrifice and efforts. However, World War II designs revived one Victorian practice: the use of multiple clasps to demonstrate soldiers' different areas of service—marking a form of respect of the prowess of the individual soldier which was denied to certain World War I soldiers, for example, to veterans of the Gallipoli campaign. It is gratifying to see that this practice continues to this day

as can be seen through the much-delayed issuing of the *Bomber Command* clasp in 2013.

Towards a new interpretation of medals

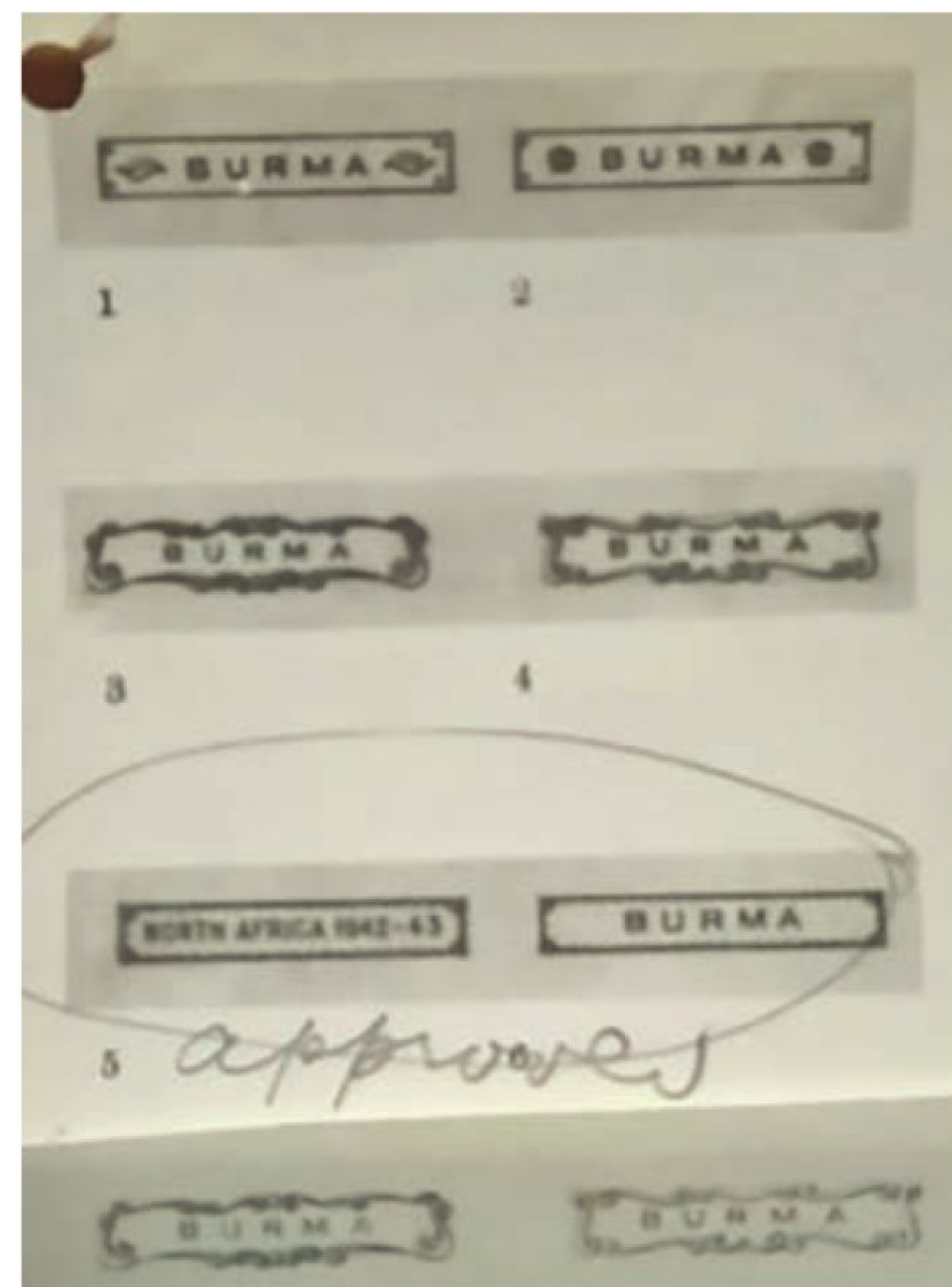
The granting of medals may seem a peripheral activity in the great business of waging and commemorating war. However, changes in the design of medals over the last few centuries can shine a light on changes to the way that participants, authorities and the public viewed war. The change in designs began in the 20th century, with World War I medals depicting fewer aggressive military scenes than were found on Victorian and early Edwardian medals. (An egregious example is the Ashantee Medal of 1874, which depicts a heart-rending scene of soldiers dying for their country.) The design of monuments and memorials followed a similar trajectory in the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. Standardised medals such as the Campaign Stars had a model which was adapted to the many theatres of war across the world. Other medals also encompassed participation by civilians, such as the Defence Medal, which encouraged designers to be politically aware. However, consistent use of royal emblems and features such as oak and laurel wreaths suggest that the changes

between the world wars in the design of medals represent a gradual evolution rather than a rupture. The literature, memorials and monuments between the wars represent greater changes, possibly even ruptures, in attitudes to war than can be seen in the differences between medals in these periods.

Medals have been common objects since the 18th century, predominantly in Europe but also around the world. Medals can reveal truths about current political issues, such as discomfort over giving awards to veterans of campaigns in which



Graphic depiction of war, as seen on the Ashantee Medal, fell out of favour in the 20th century.



Proposed designs for clasps on World War II campaign star with final version chosen circled.

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LEW DARLINGTON

The 4th Rifle Brigade at Prosenik, Salonika

SEVERAL years ago, I obtained a single Victory Medal named to 1995 WO CL2 S. A. Smith, Rifle Brigade. Initial research showed that he had been killed in action in Salonika in April 1918 and that his name was on the Doiran Memorial to the missing. As it was the only medal in my collection to the Rifle Brigade at that time, I put it away and forgot about it until, on a well-known auction site, up popped his missing 1914–15 Star and War Medal. After bidding and securing the medals I decided to research his career and how he had been killed. This led me to an action fought in the malaria-ridden Struma Valley and a court of inquiry.

Stanley Arthur Smith was born in Daventry, Northants in 1886. On the 1891 census it shows that he was one of 10 children born to William and Fanny Smith. The 1901 census states that the family, now consisting of eight children, were living at Warwick Road, Daventry, with Stanley aged 15 employed as a boot maker. In March 1907 he attested at Winchester for the King's Royal Rifle Corps stating that he was aged 18 and that he had had previous military experience serving with the 3rd Militia Northamptonshire Regiment. Although he was 5ft 6in tall his complexion was described as pale and his physical development as poor. However, he was accepted for service and in July he was transferred and posted to the 3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade where in November the same year, he was appointed Lance Corporal.

After serving at home with the 3rd, Stanley was posted, on October 1, 1909, to the 4th Battalion, the same day as the 4th sailed for service in Egypt. In November the following year, whilst serving in Egypt, Stanley was appointed Corporal. Three years later, on January 31, 1913, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and four days after he received his promotion, he and his Battalion left Egypt bound for India. However, their time in India was cut short by the outbreak of World War I.

At that time the Battalion was stationed at Dagshai in the Solan district of Himachal Pradesh. With the declaration of war they

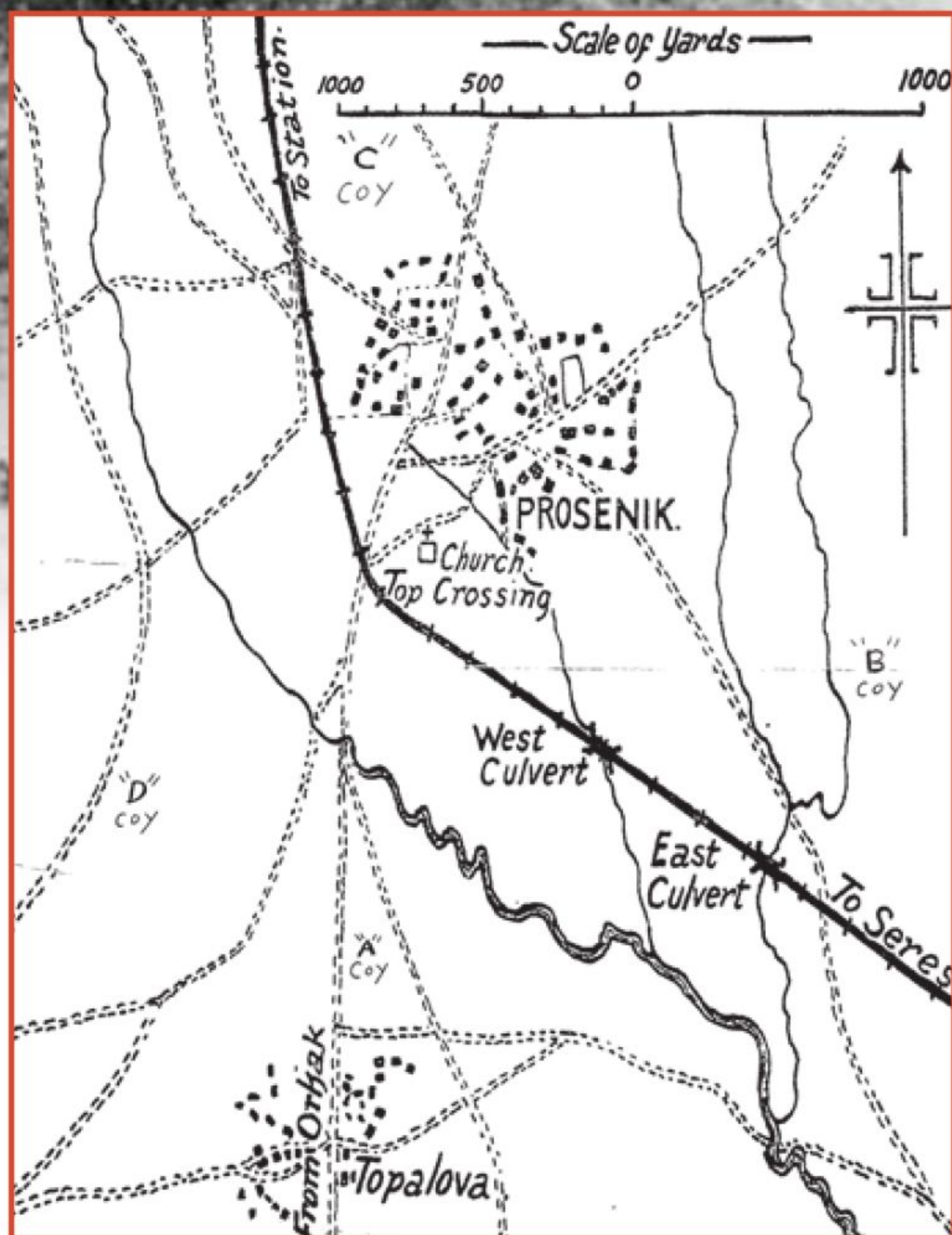
were recalled and sailed for home, arriving at Devonport on November 18, 1914. After disembarking, the men proceeded to Magdalen Camp at Winchester, where the Battalion became part of 80th Brigade, 27 Division. It was not long before the 4th Rifle Brigade were sent to France and landed at Le Havre on December 21, 1914. The Battalion proceeded to the front and entered trenches at St Eloi near the town of Ypres, where they soon became engaged with the enemy.

Sergeant Smith's papers state that on March 5, 1915, he received a GSW (gunshot wound) to his ear. The war diary page for the day states "*Relieved by 2 KSLI, Casualties 1 officer killed and 9 ors wounded*". The wound that Stanley received was deemed serious enough for him to be sent back to England. After convalescing at home, he returned to France and re-joined his Battalion in mid-June when it was serving in the trenches near Armentieres. In November the Battalion received orders to proceed to Marseilles and it was here that the officers and men boarded a transport bound for Salonika. Four days before the transport sailed Sgt Smith was promoted to CQMS.

After disembarking at Salonika, the men started to get accustomed to their new surroundings and in March 1916 Stanley Smith was promoted to Company Sergeant Major. From the time of their landing in Salonika until the start of 1918, the 4th Rifle Brigade had taken part in

the Capture of Karajakois, the Capture of Yenikoi and the Battle of Tumbitza farm. All these actions took place in the fever-ridden Struma Valley, where malaria was rife. Any major offensive to advance up the valley had been quickly ruled out due to the marshy nature of the ground and the strongly held fortified hills and mountains that lay beyond. CSM Smith seems to have been one of the few men not to have gone down with malaria, his papers stating that the only time he was hospitalised was in September 1916, suffering from inflamed lymph glands.

In April 1918 it was decided that British forces in the valley would undertake limited offences to harass the enemy and gain information by taking prisoners. The orders issued to the 4th Rifle Brigade were that on the night of April 14/15 they were to proceed to the unoccupied village of Prosenik, dig trenches outside of the village and set up outposts and ambush any Bulgarian soldiers that came their way. It had been noted that enemy soldiers had often been seen walking to the village to collect firewood. The whole operation relied on secrecy and concealment. To help with the concealment, no wire was to be put out in front of the trenches, only trip wire. If the presence and dispositions of the trenches were discovered and the enemy attacked in force, the Battalion was to retire at once. The village itself was not to be occupied and the trenches were to be well away from one another.



A map showing the positions of A, B, C and D companies.

At midnight on the 14th/15th B Company had established themselves east of the village while C Company had dug in on the western side, with three small warning posts pushed out on the northern side of the village. These two companies were to act as the ambushers while D Company would establish themselves to the south to cover C Company and A Company would cover B Company close to the deserted village of Topolova. Both these companies were to counter-attack the enemy if necessary. By 5.00am everyone was in their positions and communication had been established with HQ.

For the next hour all was quiet but at 6.15am light artillery fire began to fall around the positions taken up by the Battalion. At 7.00am, the artillery fire intensified and Bulgarian infantry were observed making their way towards C Company's trenches. The enemy's shelling cut all telephone lines, however, at 11.00am a runner from C Company arrived at HQ and reported that although the shelling was heavy, C Company had suffered no casualties. This report coincided with an end to the shelling. At noon the bombardment started again and at 2.30pm the enemy opened heavy rifle and machine gun fire on C Company's trenches. At 3.30pm Bulgarian infantry from the 7th Division launched an attack on C Company's positions. Rifleman J. Knight later stated to a court of inquiry:

"About 15.00 hours the trench in which Lieutenant Read was in was rushed by

Bulgars who came from the left flank. We now got orders from Lance Corporal Edge, who was in charge of my team, for everyone to get out on top with his rifles. About four men and myself retired to the trench where Sergeant Moore was in charge. I believe the order was given to all in the trench for every man to go for himself and a lot of us crossed the railway line. Here we came under heavy rifle and machine gun fire. As we were almost surrounded, we all endeavoured to get away to a place where the Bulgars were not all around us. In this movement I was wounded."

Another statement made at the Court of Inquiry was from L/Cpl C. Scott who stated:

"I saw bombs bursting over the left of No. 12 platoons' trench and saw some of No. 12 evacuate their trench. I fixed swords and got my section out of the trench to a position just to the rear and opened fire on a party of the enemy about 200 yards away. At this time, enemy infantry were in No. 12 platoons' trenches. I then withdrew over the railway line and joined up with Sergeant Moore. The fighting now became every man for himself and on my way back I passed through two lines of Bulgars who appeared to be awaiting a counter-attack."

At 4.00pm wounded men arrived back at HQ and reported that C Company was in a tight corner. This was followed at 4.30pm when further wounded men arrived and reported that C Company had been rushed and was completely out of action. The Battalion's acting adjutant, Lieutenant Palk, was sent forward to assess the situation. He found that C Company's positions were in the hands of the enemy, estimated to be about 300, and ordered B Company to withdraw, which they successfully did under shrapnel fire. It was later discovered that B Company, although they could hear the fighting, they could not see anything due to the tall vegetation, plus the men had dug their trenches too deep and could not fire out of them. It was also discovered that the commanding officer of B Company did not want to give his position away by sending any runners to C Company's trenches.

So ended a very unfortunate day. The attempted ambush had misfired, with the British instead being the ambushed party. C Company's casualties amounted to 2 officers and 6 ors killed, with 3 officers and 96 ors missing. Only 16 men succeeded in making it back. One of those killed was CSM Stanley Arthur Smith. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Doiran Memorial to the missing. Lieutenant-General C. J. Briggs Commanding XVI Corps, was so concerned about what had happened to the 4th, that he immediately ordered a court of inquiry to investigate the action. Although they were unwilling to attach blame to anyone concerned, the inquiry found that the company commanders had failed to take proper precautions to guard against surprise, i.e. the flanks of C Company were insecure against enemy turning movements. In addition the trenches were dug too deep, making it impossible to fire out of them. Further, the high vegetation limiting the range of vision should have been realised even in the dark and that common sense seems to have been entirely lacking in this respect. It was considered that too much attention had been paid to concealment at the expense of security and also there was no proper inter communication, B Company neglecting to send runners to C Company to assess the situation. With the two companies separated by a village that gave the enemy a covered approach, C Company's ambush became nothing more than a death trap.

Nevertheless it was agreed that some good should come from the loss of C Company, so the courts findings were sent to all companies of the division to be used in teaching and training, so that a similar mistake would not happen again.

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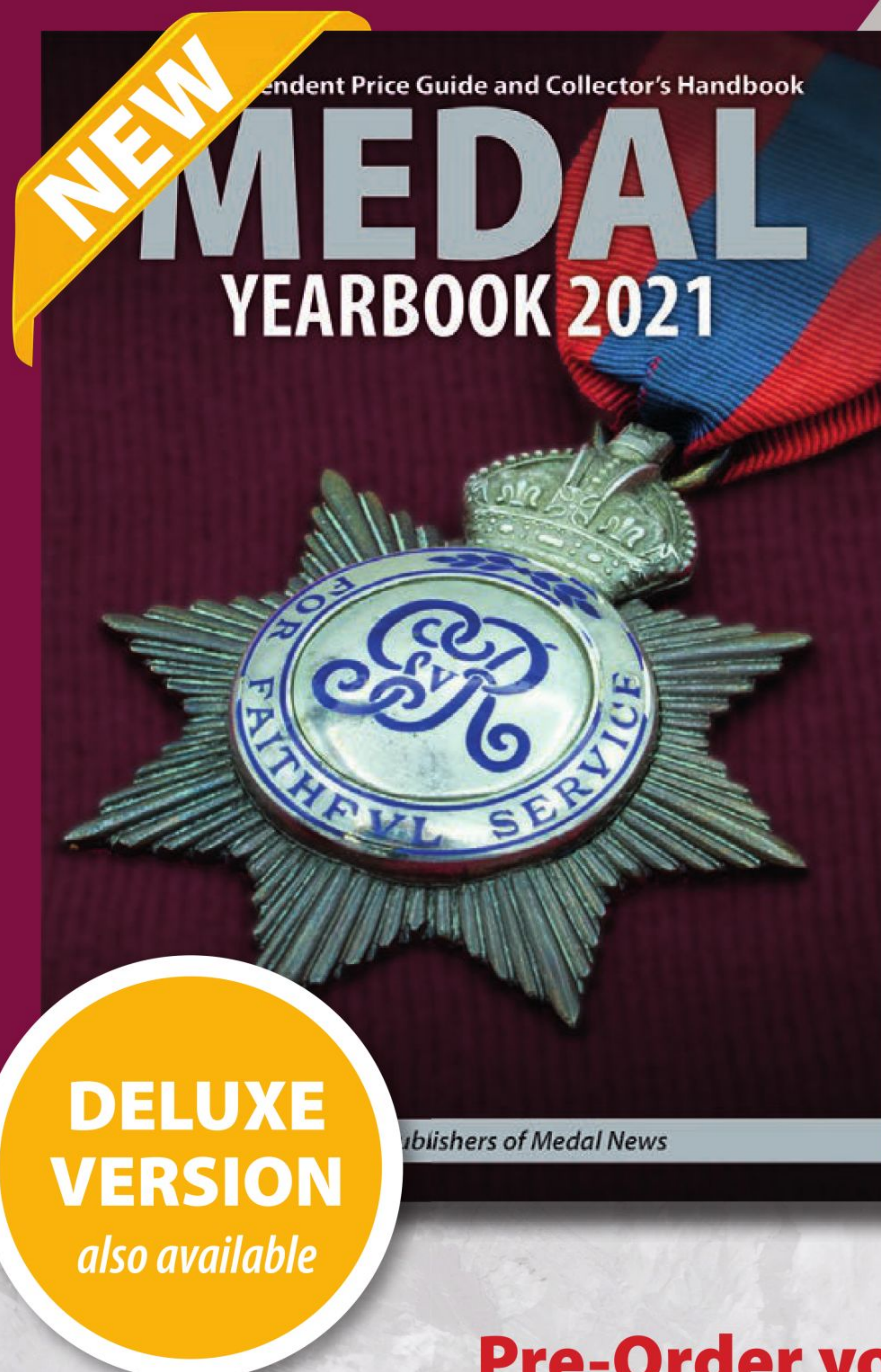
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PART II

This month we continue the story of Major James Woodman, DSO, introduced in "Under African skies" in the June/July 2020 edition.

KEN MARSH

No such word as "can't" in the British Army

Major James Woodman, DSO

THE famous Peninsular War soldier and letter writer, Private William Wheeler, wrote: *"It is the very life and soul of a soldier to keep moving"*. Perhaps this basic instinct prompted Captain James Woodman to leave behind the wreckage of his marriage and seek an active service appointment in West Africa, with the 2nd Battalion Northern Nigeria Regiment.

The 2nd NNR was based at Lokoja, which lies at the confluence of the Niger and Benue rivers. It was the British capital of the Northern Nigeria Protectorate. Woodman must have felt at home, after all West Africa was a part of the world he was thoroughly accustomed to.

He did not have long to wait for action. Sir Frederick Lugard the High Commissioner and indefatigable Empire-builder had eliminated the Caliphate, which controlled Northern Nigeria. The Imperial presence now held sway, but the peace was an uneasy one. A 1927 history records the year 1903 ended *"with an unfortunate disaster in the pagan province of Bassa. The resident travelling on official business was attacked in the jungle by the savage tribes of the Okpotos. Both the resident and the police commander were killed. Nearly all their escort was killed, or captured and enslaved. Next year the usual necessary punitive expedition ensued."*

The expedition was despatched on January 2, 1904. Lugard's subsequent report to the Colonial Office states: *"The force, consisting of eleven British and 262 native rank and file, with two guns and two Maxims, was commanded by Major Merrick, RA. The operations lasted for about three months, and the country was traversed in every direction. Fines were inflicted on the hostile villages, and a considerable number of rifles and other arms were confiscated. Many of the missing police were rescued, and all the arms and ammunition taken by the enemy*

were recovered. Our casualties were 48, and the behaviour of the troops was reported as excellent."

The June 7, 1904 *London Evening Standard* (quoting Reuters) gives a detailed account of the short campaign: *"The operations were most severe. The fighting which occurred almost daily was of a stubborn character. The dense bush rendered the operations amongst the most difficult that have taken place in Northern Nigeria. During the whole three month's operations, the enemy displayed throughout great assurance and bravery."* Reuters listed the composition of Merrick's force, which included a company of the 2nd Northern Nigerian Regiment.

Bassa province was criss-crossed. The Okpoto warriors armed with Snyder rifles, used them to good effect, avoiding wherever possible a pitched battle and sniping from the cover of jungle and dense bush. Merrick's methodical operations in Bassa province were detailed in the *London*

Gazette, August 25, 1905. They make sober reading. Hostile villages and towns were destroyed. He was praised by his superior for *"tact and discrimination in dealing with the people; where punishment was deserved it was thoroughly administered, and where leniency was advisable common sense and tact were used."*

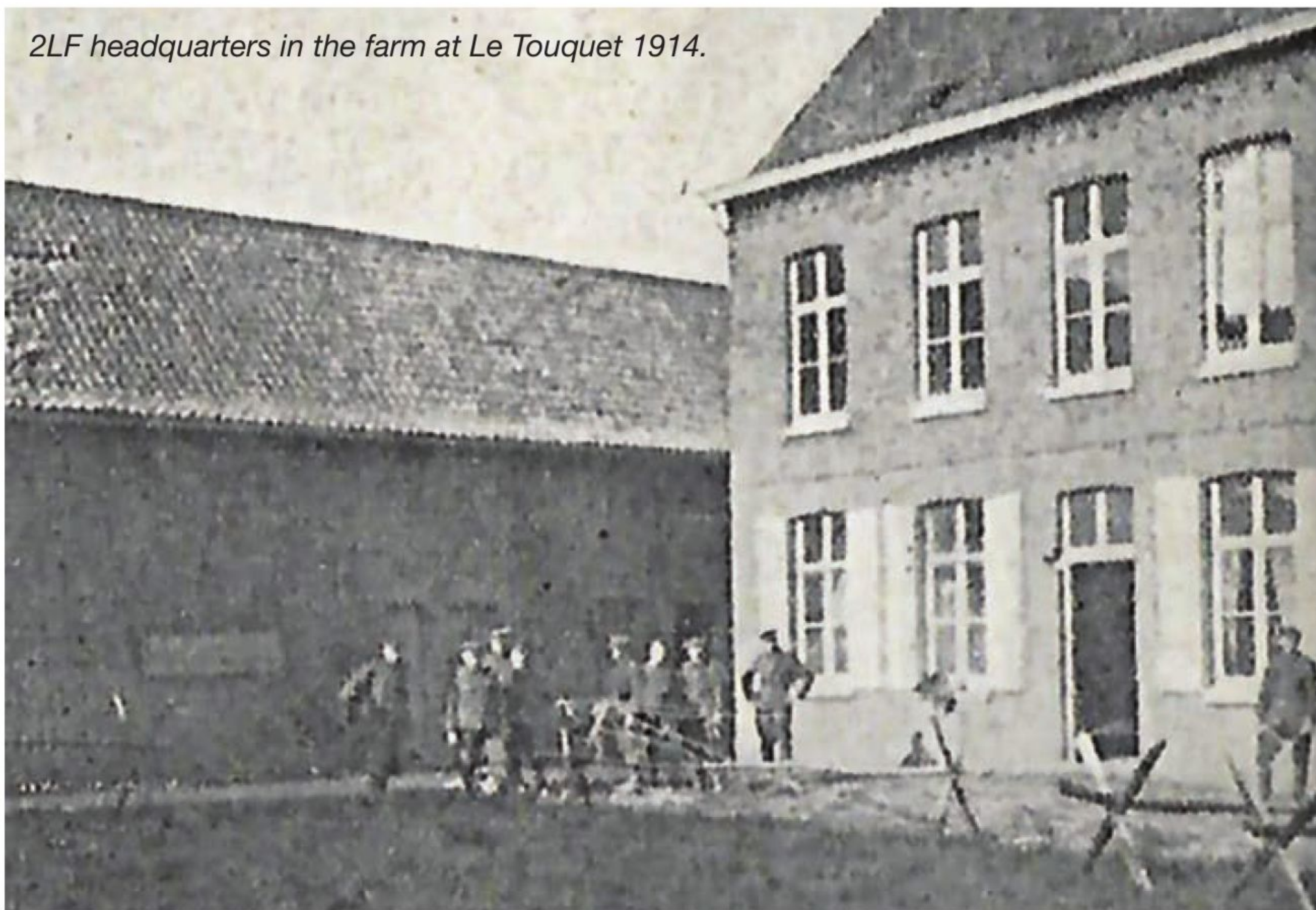
When it comes to administering punishment, Colonel C. E. Calwell's *Small Wars* (first published 1896) seems to be the text-book in such matters. Calwell laid down the fundamental principle of first quelling an insurrection, by superior military might, then punishing the insurrectionists by destroying their villages and property. Only then would the thoroughly intimidated enemy accept a lasting peace. No doubt this carrot and stick strategy achieved the desired effect, but it brings to mind the words of Tacitus: *"They make a desert and call it peace"*. The *London Gazette* account bleakly ends *"The country was formerly disaffected, but is now under control."*

Captain Woodman applied for his Africa General Service campaign medal with clasp in Spring 1907. In October of the same year he instructed his solicitors to file a petition for divorce in the High Court, on the grounds of his wife's adultery. James was now serving with the 2nd Lancashire Fusiliers in Ireland. In December 1907 Mrs Woodman filed a petition denying adultery and detailing instances of physical cruelty. In March 1908 she filed a petition for alimony. In April her allegations of physical cruelty were struck from the Court record. A "Setting down cause" for the divorce petition, i.e. Mrs Woodman's adultery with the co-respondent Thomas White, was filed on May 13. May 21 saw the alimony petition dismissed. October 30, 1908 saw Captain Woodman posted to the Regimental Depot in Bury, for a tour of duty with the 4th Special Reserve Battalion. On November



Captain Woodman (left) in a group photograph taken in 1914.

2LF headquarters in the farm at Le Touquet 1914.



12, 1908 the divorce proceedings were heard in the High Court.

The November 13 edition of the *Daily Telegraph*, under the titillating headline "Met at Monte Carlo" outlined the battleground that was the marriage of Captain and Mrs Woodman.

The Captain's brief stated "*The marriage was very unhappy due to the violent temper of the respondent*" (Mrs Woodman). The couple had finally separated at Pevensey, near Eastbourne in February 1902. The *Daily Telegraph* reported: ". . . there was a scene and the husband went out of the house to get away from his wife. When he returned in the evening, he found a cab at the door, with Mrs Woodman's baggage on it. The lady then left and never lived with the petitioner since."

Both respondent and co-respondent had supplied written answers denying misconduct. However, the *Daily Telegraph* reported there was no-one in court to plead their case. It therefore appears that neither was present and as a consequence, Mrs Woodman did not appear in the witness box to substantiate her allegations of physical cruelty.

Captain Woodman gave evidence bearing out his counsel's statements. Woodman stated in his testimony that Mrs Woodman left him between £600 and £700 in debt. He further testified that he had made his estranged wife an allowance of £4 6s 8d a month. After other witnesses had been called a Decree Nisi was granted to Captain Woodman on November 12, 1908. A Final Decree was granted on May 24, 1909. The Judge declared the marriage to be dissolved, by reason of Mrs Woodman's adultery with Thomas White.

In July 1909 the 4/LF diary reported Woodman ". . . unexpectedly left us to take up a Militia Adjutancy in Malta." James rejoined 2/LF in 1912, after a second spell in exile. In January 1913 he "Qualified as a Second-Class Interpreter in a Modern Foreign Language (German)". In a 1906 "Statement of Services" he listed his command of

both French and German languages. This ties in with the comment in his obituary stating Woodman was "A soldier of studious habits. He found pleasure in the study of languages and was thorough in all that he undertook." He was also a member of the Royal United Services Institution, which demonstrated his eagerness and interest in debating all matters relating to military policy and strategy.

The outbreak of war in August 1914 saw the 2nd Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers commanded by 40-year-old Major C. J. Griffin. Captain Woodman was four years his senior in age. Woodman's matrimonial troubles may well have dented his promotion prospects, however, a more plausible reason was the disbandment of two regular battalions of the regiment, which checked the careers of many junior officers.

The 1914/15 *Lancashire Fusiliers' Annual* gives a detailed and atmospheric account of the 2nd Battalion's fortunes in the initial phase of fluid warfare. It is from this source we learn that Woodman's actions in the September 1914 battles of the rivers Marne and Aisne made those who "served under him believe that he had a charmed life. Men fell all around him, but he remained unscathed."

Woodman's company was ordered to cross the Aisne by a staff officer, who neglected to inform Major Griffin. Having no orders as to what to do next, Woodman positioned his men under cover of a wood near the partially destroyed bridge. The rest of the Battalion eventually followed and soon the wood was thronged with Fusiliers—a tempting target for the enemy's artillery. Griffin received permission to advance his Battalion. A series of text-book skirmishing lines was formed, which advanced in perfect order under heavy shell-fire to their objective. The disposition between the lines was so perfect and the discipline so excellent that casualties were only one killed and two wounded.

October 1914 saw 2/LF ordered to seize Le Touquet mining village, situated about 15km south of Ypres. Command of the Battalion had now devolved upon Captain Woodman and he magnificently rose to the occasion. The 1914/15 *Annual* reports: "*The gallant Woodman had a complete disregard for danger and was undoubtedly quite devoid of any sense of personal fear. He frequently gave vent to sallies of quaint grim humour, but he had one characteristic which soldiers admire—he never sent anyone out on a service, however dangerous, that he was not prepared to face or undertake himself.*"

The 1914/15 *Annual* furnishes striking anecdotes of Woodman's tenure in command, including one memorable quote, which is Wellingtonian in tone. Woodman's leading company had sent word they could not advance beyond the village because the enemy fire was overwhelming and our own artillery support was non-existent. Woodman's response was to send his Adjutant, Second-Lieutenant Evatt, to inform the officer commanding: "*There is no such word as 'can't' in the British army*". However, to his credit, Woodman quickly accepted the reality of the situation. Once our guns had arrived, the attack was rescheduled after a preliminary bombardment and pushed home.

Woodman later sent Evatt and a Private out on reconnaissance and the two men were fortunate to return unscathed. They reported back, breathless and shaken by their narrow escape. Captain Woodman, to whom Evatt reported, commented on Evatt being out of breath and seemed to think that speed had been unnecessary!

This (in my view) displays no lack of empathy on Woodman's part, for he was a man of intense emotion, but rather a desire to impress on his young Adjutant the need to display composure in the face of danger. Ironically, Woodman was afforded an opportunity to display his own sang-froid, as an example to others. The farm serving as Battalion HQ was subjected to prolonged shelling. The *Annual's* narrative with wonderful understated humour informs us: "*Several attempts were made during this time to induce Captain Woodman to take cover, but he was too engrossed in his much-delayed reading of The Times.*" Once he had made his point, Woodman and a much-relieved Evatt, retired to join the orderlies in the cellar.

Captain Woodman was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Service Order—*London Gazette*, December 1, 1914 refers. The aggravatingly concise citation reads: "*He commanded three companies in the attack on Le Touquet and afterwards in the section of defence which included the village.*"

The whole point of these stoic displays, as far as James Woodman was concerned was to instil a sense of confidence into his men. It was not necessary for them to like him. The 1914/15 *Annual* calls him "*strict and not very genial*". Throughout his military career he took great care to ensure he always presented himself as an

unrattled commander who knew what he was doing. It was an honest persona that had been honed to near perfection. From the disease-ridden forests of Ashanti and the brutal bush war of Sierra Leone, to the insurrection in Northern Nigeria, James Woodman was a man of almost impenetrable, inspirational calm, interspersed with occasional fiery outbursts in the red-hot heat of battle. What soldier worth his salt does not respect and respond to such a leader? The 1914/15 *Annual* reported: "... those under him ... were devoted to him with an absolute confidence". Inevitably, he paid a heavy price. Woodman's impressive professionalism concealed a stress-fuelled anger, which must have ruined his chances of personal happiness.

The Battalion was relieved after four days continuous fighting and Woodman's time in command came to a close. In December 1914 King George V visited his armies on the Western Front. Captain Woodman was decorated by His Majesty with the DSO for his actions at Le Touquet. The *Regimental Annual* notes Woodman "... was present at all actions of the 2nd Battalion up to 2nd May 1915". He was a gas casualty on May 2, when the enemy launched a chlorine gas attack on the 2nd Battalion's position in the Ypres salient, which necessitated his evacuation to the UK. He was promoted to Major on September 1, 1915 and appointed second-in-command of the 12th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers.

12 NF was formed at Newcastle in September 1914, as part of Kitchener's Third New Army. They sailed for France on September 9, 1915. Their first major engagement was the battle of Loos on September 26, 1915. The Battalion suffered very heavy casualties in the attack on Hill 70, including the loss of Major Woodman. A letter by Major David Graham-Pole commanding the 12th Northumberland Fusiliers, relates how Woodman reached

his journey's end. He was shot through the heart, when observing the enemy position through his field glasses. One of his last acts was to order the CO's servant back down the hill. The youth was wounded in the wrist, but was still going on.

A poignant legal notice appeared in the *London Gazette* of May 12, 1916. The Solicitors to the Executors of the late Major Woodman's Will invited "All creditors... having debts, claims and demands against the late Major's estate, to forward particulars in writing of their debts."

It might be thought somewhat bizarre at this point, to introduce a comment by Voltaire, the 18th century French writer. He was describing the qualities of John Churchill, the 1st Duke of Marlborough, but it seems to me, his perceptive words apply equally well to James Woodman: "He possessed in a superior degree ... that tranquil courage in the midst of tumult and serenity of soul in danger, which the English call a cool head. It is perhaps ... the principal gift in nature for a commander."

Woodman was a decisive and inspiring leader on the battlefield. His personality may not have inspired much affection from the men he led, but he was wholeheartedly trusted as a soldier who

knew his business. There is of course the other side of the coin. His estranged wife's accusations of physical cruelty make disturbing reading. One might reasonably speculate that James Woodman withdrew into his emotional shell after the acrimonious divorce and sought solace in his army career.

In any event, the three pre-1914 campaign medals he proudly wore, stand as a worthy commemoration of an exceptional soldier. Major James Woodman is "Remembered with Honour" on the Loos Memorial. Graham-Pole described Woodman as "A brave and gallant officer. A man of very wide experience, who was of the greatest help to us." I believe it is a tribute he would be humbled to receive.

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Major Woodman's pre-1914 campaign medals.



Hausa soldiers at Lokaja, Northern Nigeria.



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CHRIS BILHAM

The Admiral's Secretary

2: William Prophit

WILLIAM PROPHIT was another paymaster who spent much of his career as secretary to various captains and admirals, including Andrew Cunningham. His career was a particularly interesting one, with service in the Baltic, the East Indies, North America and the West Indies, New Zealand (three tours) and China. During World War II his ship was in the thick of the fighting in the Mediterranean. Reports compiled on Prophit at the end of his respective commissions are unusually detailed and provide a fascinating "rise and fall" account of a talented officer who allowed certain personality faults to blight his career.

Prophit was born in Cuckfield, Sussex, in 1900. He never knew his father, William Craigie Prophit, who died on active service in South Africa with the Imperial Yeomanry. He joined the Royal Navy as a midshipman in May 1917 but was found to be short-sighted and in August that year transferred to the Accountant Branch as an Assistant Clerk. He was first appointed to the *Ajax*, a battleship in the Grand Fleet at Scapa Flow. She conducted routine patrols and training in the North Sea but was not in action during the time in which Prophit served in her. Promoted Pay Midshipman on his 18th birthday, he was transferred to the *King George V* two months later. His

first reports were not very promising; in December 1918 his commanding officer noted that he was forgetful and not very keen, three months later he noted that Prophit's greatest asset was his cheerful disposition which relieved the monotony of office routine. He was also neat in appearance and receptive to discipline. However, he was somewhat irresponsible — "a child still".

On May 16, 1919 Prophit was appointed to the light cruiser *Cleopatra* as secretary's clerk to the Staff Officer, 1st Light Cruiser Squadron. The squadron, commanded by Rear Admiral Walter Cowan, was deployed in the Baltic with the mission of protecting the newly independent Baltic states against the Soviets. There were a couple of inconclusive engagements but, for the most part, the Soviet warships were content to shelter behind their minefields. Prophit was in this post for only three months but made a very positive impression on Cowan's secretary Cecil de Denne, who reported that he worked well and was a very promising officer. This officer arranged for Prophit to work with him on two more occasions in the next few years.

Prophit was then transferred to the *Highflyer*, flagship of the East Indies Squadron at Bombay. This protected cruiser had been launched in 1898 and was the last of the Victorian-era cruisers

still in commission. He impressed Captain Braithwaite as a hardworking and capable officer. He left the ship in 1921 when she was paid off and sold for scrap.

Having been promoted Paymaster Sub-Lieutenant in 1920, Prophit then attended the Royal Naval College Dartmouth for ten months. The commanding officer noted that he was willing and capable, and suitable in all respects for admiral's secretary's clerk. He added that he was an agreeable messmate and, although not an outstanding sportsman, had thoroughly entered into the life of the college.

In April 1922 Prophit was appointed to the *Hood*, flagship of Rear Admiral Cowan. *Hood* had only recently been commissioned and was the fastest, most powerful, beautiful and prestigious ship in the Royal Navy. However, Cowan was regarded by many as an overbearing martinet and this was not a happy commission. For Prophit, though, the commission was a successful one; he was promoted to Paymaster Lieutenant and de Denne reported:

"Quick, hardworking, tactful and discreet, he is the best type of officer and particularly well-suited for admirals' offices. Has a charming personality, is full of zeal for the service and his own squadron, takes a very full part in the ship's life and is universally liked."

In May 1923 Prophit was appointed to the light cruiser *Chatham* on the New Zealand station. She cruised around the coast and visited the South Pacific islands, including Samoa (then a NZ protectorate) and Fiji. In April 1924 HMS *Hood* and the Special Service Squadron visited NZ. The squadron included the light cruiser *Dunedin* (launched 1919) which had been nominated to replace the *Chatham*, a pre-war vessel. Prophit and many of his shipmates transferred to the former ship. During his service in NZ Prophit attended the Singapore Naval Conference as secretary to Commodore A. F. Beal who commanded the NZ Squadron.

HMS Dunedin.



North America and West Indies Station

In June 1926 Prophit was appointed secretary to Captain Andrew Cunningham, DSO, captain of the light cruiser *Calcutta* and Chief Staff Officer to Sir Walter Cowan, Commander-in-Chief of the North America & West Indies station. The squadron consisted of four small "C" class cruisers and a couple of sloops, and their principal duties were showing the flag, liaising with the Royal Canadian Navy and providing assistance to any of the West Indian islands in the event of civil unrest. The station was vast, covering both the east and west coasts of North America and the Caribbean. The station was a popular one, and three or four times the number of men required volunteered for the ship.

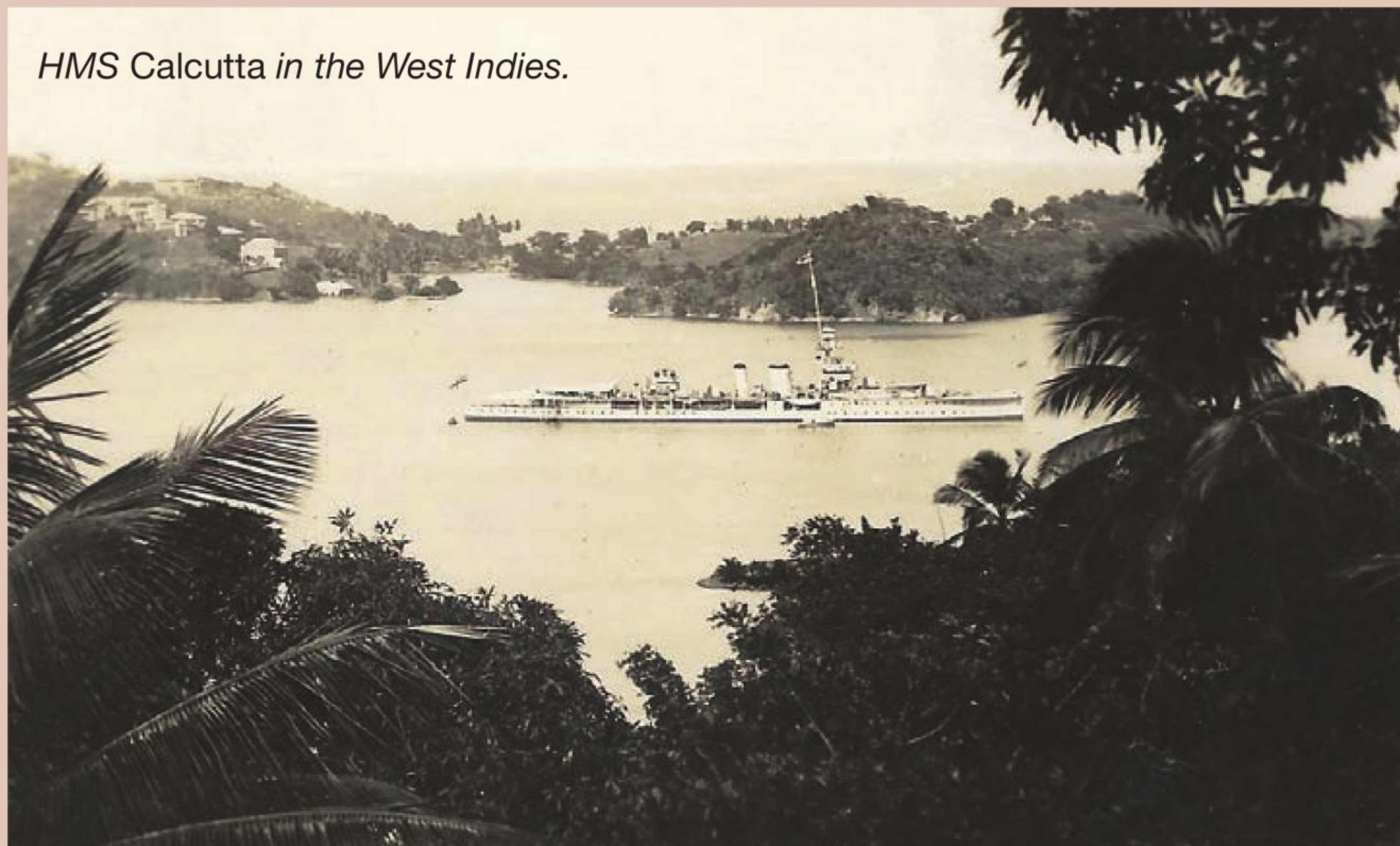
Cunningham commissioned the ship in May and took her to Bermuda, and spent the next few weeks working up the ship and being initiated into the mysteries of staff work. In his memoirs he recalled that it was his first experience of working with a trained staff and some of the minutes he wrote on the documents placed before him filled them with consternation. Bermuda was extremely hot and the ship's company was glad to set off on their first cruise to Halifax, Newfoundland, Quebec and Montreal.

Towards the end of October 1926 Bermuda was struck by a hurricane. Rather than putting to sea as recommended by Station Orders, Cunningham decided to remain in port. The water level inside the lagoon rose by several feet, the fenders rode clear of the top of the jetty and the cruiser was soon rolling heavily, grinding and shuddering against the solid masonry. Visibility was reduced practically to zero in the torrential, driving rain. Wind speed was measured at 138 miles per hour before the recording instruments were destroyed. Many of the hawsers securing the ship snapped and the commander and 50 sailors had to leap ashore and replace them. In his cabin the paymaster was unaware of all the drama and excitement on deck and sent the commander a message enquiring if it would be convenient to pay the boy seamen. This produced an explosive response!

The sloop *Valerian* had been caught at sea by the hurricane and foundered on the afternoon of October 21. There were only 19 survivors from her crew of 107. Over the following weeks Cunningham presided over a court martial of the survivors to enquire into the causes of the disaster. No doubt Prophit had a role in the proceedings.

In November 1927 the "C"-class cruisers were ordered home, where they paid off, and the companies transferred to the newer and slightly larger "D"s. The *Despatch* replaced *Calcutta* as flagship of the squadron. On their return passage they encountered a full westerly gale with the biggest seas that Cunningham had ever seen. The ship was hove to and

HMS Calcutta in the West Indies.



continually under water for two days, causing considerable structural damage. Once repaired, she carried out a three months' cruise of the western coast of South America which had just been added to the station. The hospitality was overwhelming and some of the excursions ashore were very interesting, but the round of official functions was grueling and officers and men looked forward to their time at sea as a chance to recover from the busy days and late nights.

Admiral Cowan, Captain Cunningham and their staffs left the *Despatch* in July 1928 and returned to the United Kingdom. Once again de Denne reported on Prophit's performance, this time in somewhat less glowing terms, noting weaknesses as well as strengths:

"Does not play active games. Fond of fishing, shooting, riding, etc. Keeps himself fit, very popular, but not fond of social entertainments. Is inclined to be self-willed and thereby has failed at times in postponing action on papers rather than ask for help or advice. Similarly inclined to lose interest over routine matters, but when in his proper atmosphere and interested and working directly with a senior officer or alone, is a remarkably good officer and has proved a very efficient secretary to the Chief of Staff."

Service Ashore and Afloat 1928-37

After this long foreign posting Prophit was appointed to *St Vincent*, a Boys' training establishment at Gosport, as secretary to the captain. He carried out his duties as secretary with tact and exceptional zeal and ability; he took great interest in his work, displayed a thorough knowledge of the Training Service regulations and devoted a great deal of time to furthering the welfare and recreation of the boys under training.

Evidently Prophit had enjoyed his New Zealand service for in July 1929 he was lent to the NZ Division for a period of three years as assistant secretary to Commodore G. Blake, commanding the NZ Squadron. Once again he joined

the *Dunedin*. This proved to be a more eventful tour than his previous period of service in the dominion. In January 1930 the *Dunedin* and her sister ship *Diomedé* were sent to Samoa to suppress the Mau movement, a native insurrection. Sailors and marines from the two ships served ashore and *Dunedin's* seaplane flew over the jungly interior of the island to locate Mau war-parties.

The two cruisers were in Auckland when, in the early hours of February 3, 1931, an earthquake struck Napier, killing 258 people and destroying the town. The two ships embarked emergency supplies, doctors and nurses and departed at 3pm that afternoon, steaming at top speed (24 knots). They arrived at 8.30 next morning to find scenes which reminded some veterans of wartime devastation. Then, in April 1932, armed shore parties from the Navy were deployed to restore law and order in central Auckland following riots in which several Queen Street shops were looted. Prophit was promoted Paymaster Lieutenant Commander in August 1930. Towards the end of his tour in NZ Blake reported that Prophit had served with loyalty and discretion, had sound commonsense and wide experience for his age and was a pleasant companion. However, he also noted a personality defect which would later be subject to severe comment by other officers; *"He is inclined to take himself a little too seriously with a resultant inclination to be upset by criticism."*

On his return to England in September 1932 Prophit again found himself working for Blake, who had been promoted to Rear Admiral and appointed 4th Sea Lord at the Admiralty, responsible for naval supplies, transport and medical services. Blake recommended him to study accountancy and, in February 1935, he took a course in this subject. In July 1935 he assisted Vice Admiral Dickens to plan the great Fleet Review at Spithead to celebrate King George V's silver jubilee. He continued to work as secretary to Dickens when he was flag officer commanding the Reserve Fleet at the Nore. He was awarded the medal

HMS Bee, flagship of the Yangtse flotilla.



to commemorate the coronation of King George VI in May 1937.

HMS Bee and Scorpion

In August 1937 Prophit embarked for passage to China where, the following month, he joined HMS *Bee* as secretary to the newly appointed Rear Admiral Yangtse, R. V. Holt, DSO, MVO. She was an Insect-class river gunboat employed as flagship of the Yangtse flotilla.

In the summer of 1937, the Sino-Japanese War broke out. As the Japanese army advanced inland, the Chinese Government left Nanking and relocated to Chungking. River traffic was severely disrupted. Hundreds of thousands of refugees were on the move, crowding onto anything that would float. Japanese aircraft carried out many bombing attacks, often targeting ships on the rivers. The gunboats draped large Union Jacks over their awnings but this often failed to confer immunity, because of Japanese ignorance or indiscipline.

In December 1937 Holt sailed down river from Hankow to make contact with the Japanese and discuss the protection of British property and maritime rights on the river. The Chinese had been forced to retreat from Kiangyin and were building another barrier on the river near Kiukiang, but it was only half complete and *Bee* passed between the sunken vessels without difficulty. She arrived at the river port of Wuhu on the 10th, noting that the *Ladybird* was also present. As she approached the bund (the riverside quays), she came under fire from a Japanese field-gun. With great courage, Captain O'Donnell of the *Ladybird*, who had just landed there, shouted at the Japanese gunners to hold fire and, surprisingly, they did so. The *Ladybird* had already been the subject of their attentions and been hit several times, resulting in the death of one rating and wounds to several others—O'Donnell himself had a finger torn from his hand by a shell splinter. Holt and O'Donnell then had what must have been a very tense interview with the commander of the Japanese battery.

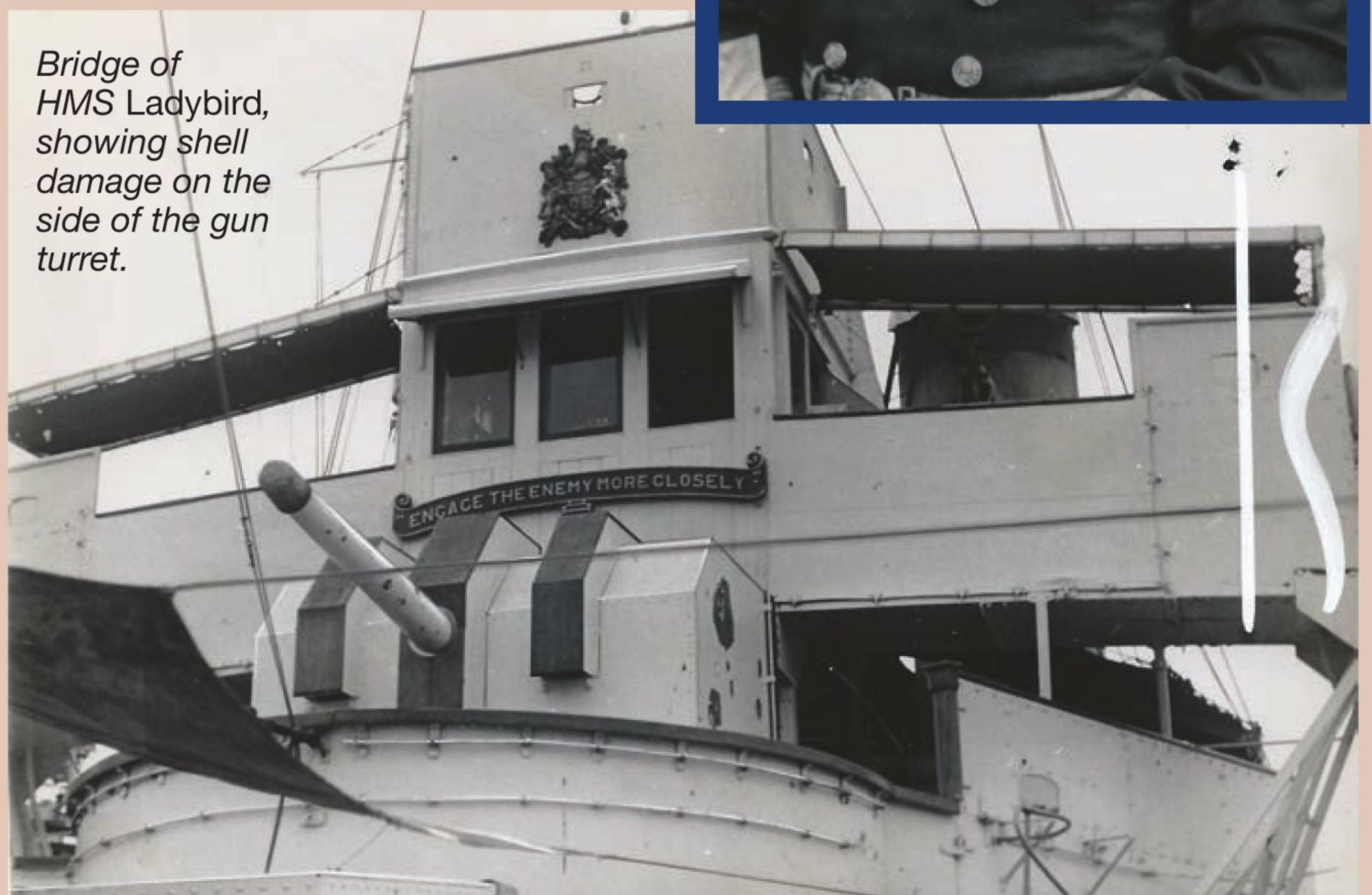
The American authorities then requested Holt to check up on the US gunboat *Panay*, which had transmitted

its call sign then fallen silent. Following the funeral of the dead rating, the *Bee* and *Ladybird* steamed up river to look for her. First they found the wrecks of three US-flagged river steamers which had been bombed and set on fire, then they located survivors from the *Panay*, which had been bombed and sunk by Japanese aircraft.

Prophit was promoted to the rank of Paymaster Commander in December 1937.

By the late 1930s the *Insects* were near the end of their useful life and the Admiralty decided to replace them. A new vessel, the *Scorpion*, was designed to replace *Bee* as flagship of the Yangtse Flotilla. In October 1938 the *Bee* was paid off and reduced to care and maintenance status at Shanghai. She was sold for breaking up the following March. Prophit was temporarily transferred to the strength of *Tamar*, the Hong Kong depot and receiving ship. The *Scorpion* arrived in Hong Kong and Prophit joined her company on Christmas Day 1938. She then made the passage north to Shanghai. By that time the Sino-Japanese War had been in progress for more than a year and *Scorpion* was never able to reach Hankow and the upper river due to the booms across the river. Nevertheless, she still attempted to protect British interests

Bridge of HMS Ladybird, showing shell damage on the side of the gun turret.



on such parts of the river as remained open to navigation.

Holt had a difficult and stressful job in China, and the hot and humid climate would not have improved his temper. He did not get on with Prophit and when the time came in January 1940 to draft a report on his secretary he did not pull his punches:

"Difficult officer to report on; very faithful, very slow, no vices, no bad habits, but completely unsuitable to be secretary to any flag officer; goes into childish sulks if found fault with even in the lightest vein; his English is faulty and stilted and he cannot express himself or draft a letter; terribly self-conscious and difficult to live with; very careful and trustworthy in looking after one's finances, but slow at that; plenty of private means."

Shortly afterwards, Prophit embarked in MV *Denbighshire* for the passage back to England. The master expressed his appreciation when Prophit volunteered to assist the ship's officers in keeping a lookout for U-boats.

To be continued . . .

Rear Admiral R. V. Holt.



RICHARD TAYLOR

Sad story behind inaugural boat race winner's medal

TWO sweating crews of strong young rowers, fiercely competitive, oar blades flashing, urged on by the cries of an eager cox. The familiar university boat race on the Thames? No, but this might describe another high-profile rowing event—the annual race between crews from the training ships HMS Worcester on the Thames and HMS Conway on the Mersey, fought on each of the two rivers on alternate years. The first of these was on the Thames on June 5, 1890 and, unsurprisingly, the winners—from the Worcester—were issued with 1¼-inch (32mm) silver medals, individually engraved with the recipient's name, his ship and his position in the successful boat crew. I found one of these historic little items on eBay, named to G. A. Mardon, who occupied the bow position in the Worcester's boat.

George Arthur Mardon was a coal merchant's son, born at Warwick on March 24, 1873. After his training in the Worcester, he obtained an apprenticeship in the merchant service in October 1891, only days after being appointed a midshipman in the Royal Naval Reserve. He was indentured to ship owners John Leslie and Partners of Aberdeen, making his first voyage in the *Hinemoa*, a handsome sailing ship built only the previous year when she was fitted with freezing machinery for the mutton trade from New Zealand. But more of George later...

The inaugural race in which he played such a key part took place close to the Worcester moored at Greenhithe, an event of enough significance to draw the attention of renowned maritime artist Charles W. Wylie, whose painting of the scene is held by the Royal Museums Greenwich. The race took place in response to a challenge from the Conway and was rowed in six-oared ships' whalers over a two-mile course.

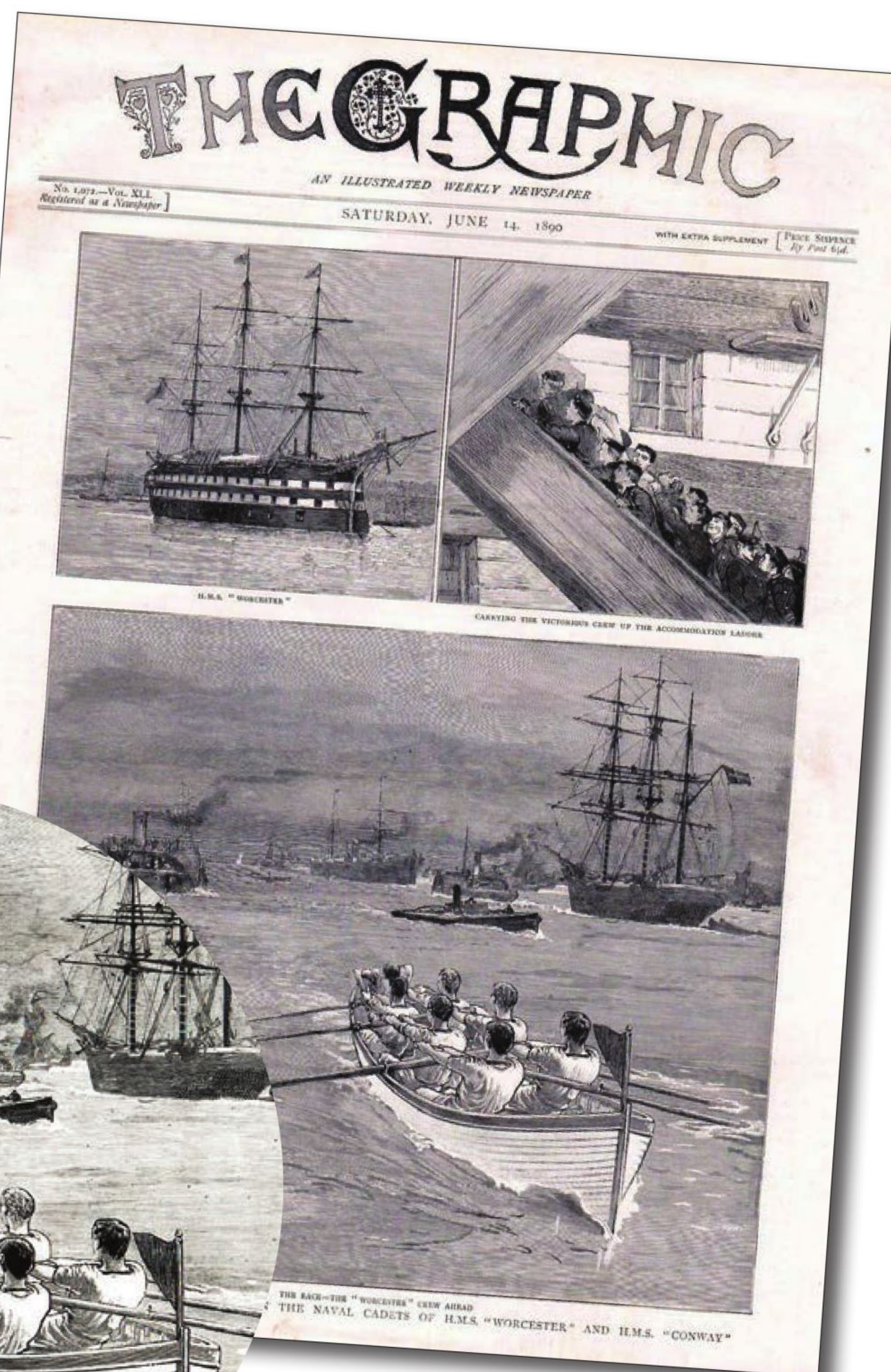
In his 1929 book *The History of the Worcester*, Frederick H. Stafford wrote:

"When on that June 5, 1890 the two boats got away at the signal gun, the 'Worcester' crew promptly took the lead. 'Conway' then pulled close to their rivals, but the former, assisted ably by the coxswain, A. P. Parmeter, shot ahead again and won by about three lengths. In the race of the following year the 'Conway' crew won fairly easily on their own water..."

The *Liverpool Courier* of June 19, 1891

reported on the second event:

"From all quarters I hear the highest praise bestowed upon the 'Conway' cadets who manned the winning boat . . . Some of the oldest and most experienced boatmen on the Mersey could not help but give expression to their admiration of the steady sweeping stroke which they kept up without any discernible variation for the twenty minutes during which the race lasted—a stroke which they pulled



The *Graphic* front page depicting the 1890 race (left) The race as pictured by the *Graphic's* artist with George Mardon in the Worcester boat's bow position.



A large cigarette card showing Worcester boats practising for the race in the 1930s.

more like veteran oarsmen than youths at school."

The previous year's event must have made a considerable impression on Charles Wylie because he returned to capture the second race in a watercolour painting now held by National Museums Liverpool.

The race continued to be rowed each year until it ended in disagreement in 1906 so Stafford could take the story no further but in fact the race was revived in the 1930s.

Now back to George Mardon and his story. He served in the *Hinemoa* until July 1893 but put an early blot on his record in March 1892 when the *Victoria Police Gazette* reported that he had been charged, on warrant, for deserting his ship at Hobson's Bay. He was described as about 5ft 5ins tall, fresh complexion, wearing a blue saq(?) suit and a black boxer hat. The four-masted *Hinemoa* was a fine ship but she was renowned for suffering bad luck which began on her first voyage when four of her apprentices died at Lyttelton, New Zealand, from typhoid which was believed to have emanated from her ballast which consisted of rubble from an old London burial ground.

Charles Wylie's painting of the 1890 race.

Despite his early deviation George went on to earn his second mate's certificate in June 1894 and a provisional first mate's certificate's in July 1896. The latter was for RNR purposes only and did not mean he had Board of Trade authority to serve in that capacity at sea. The Board might well have had cause to be cautious.

George's RNR service record includes information about his merchant ship appointments as well as his RNR duties. He was appointed acting sub-lieutenant in January 1897 but there are a number of references to his unfitness for duty because of drink, including three incidents at Cape Town in November 1897 which led to a caution by the Board of Trade. Following a series of drunken incidents in August 1899, he was arrested and imprisoned for seven days for going ashore without leave. His service sheet shows that during periods of naval training when he was on the books of HMS *President*, he had often been absent or sometimes sick. Eventually the Royal Navy had had enough of him and in November 1899 he was removed from the RNR for misconduct.

Despite his drinking, George was a family man. He had married Jessie Nettchen Bateman (1878-1964) at Kensington in 1894. Daughters Marjorie and Nora Annie were born in 1895 and 1897 while son Eric Philip came along in 1898. A 1905 passenger list shows Jessie sailing second class with six-year-old Eric to join her husband in Canada. But by this time George was dead. He had died in July 1904 at Aberdeen, Grays Harbor, Washington, USA. So did Jessie cross the Atlantic not knowing she had lost her husband? That would indeed have been tragic.

In any event, Jessie made a life for herself in Canada. Her daughters joined her in 1909, sailing together but otherwise unaccompanied, and she herself later married Dutch-born Canadian national Frank Heintz, to create a new and hopefully more secure life.

Footnote

George's son Eric, described as a farmer from Winnipeg, lied about his

age and volunteered for the Canadian Expeditionary Force on February 4, 1916, joining the 100th Winnipeg Grenadiers. He sailed from Halifax for the UK in the luxury liner *Olympic* on September 18, 1916. He left England for France on March 21, 1917, having transferred to the 107th Pioneer Canadian Engineers. Despite being taken ill, he survived the 1918 flu epidemic at No. 3 Canadian Field Ambulance, although it left him with bronchitis. In 1919 he returned to Canada where he died in Vancouver in 1969.



Mardon's first ship, the *Hinemoa*, was a handsome vessel serving the New Zealand meat trade.

Principal sources

STAFFORD, Frederick H., OBE, AINA, *The History of the "Worcester"*, Frederick Warne, 1929.

LUBBOCK, Basil, *The Last of the Windjammers, Volume II*, Brown, Son & Ferguson, 1929.

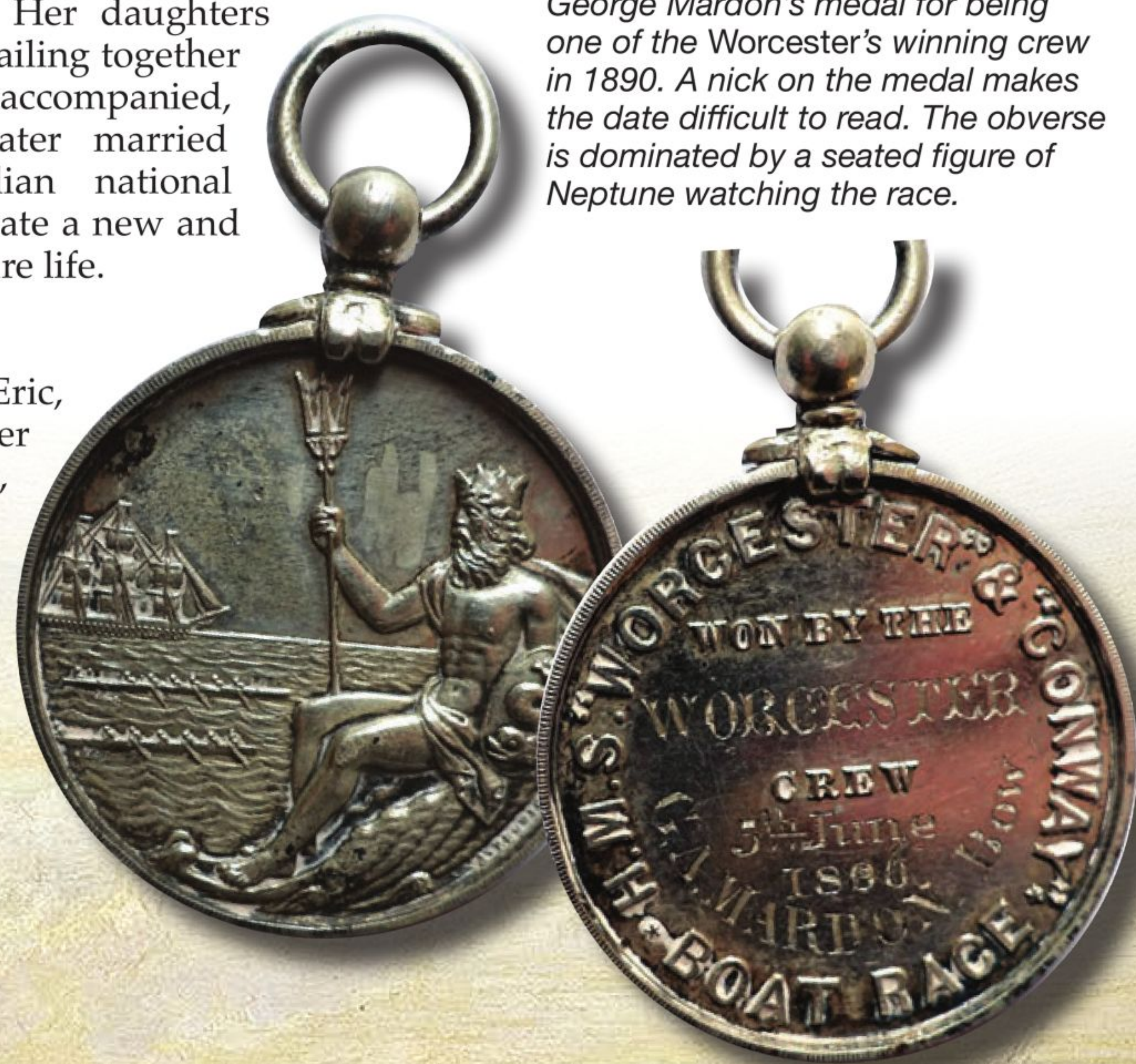
George A. Mardon's RNR service record (The National Archives, ADM 240/21/11).

Eric P. Mardon's Canadian army service record (via ancestry.co.uk).

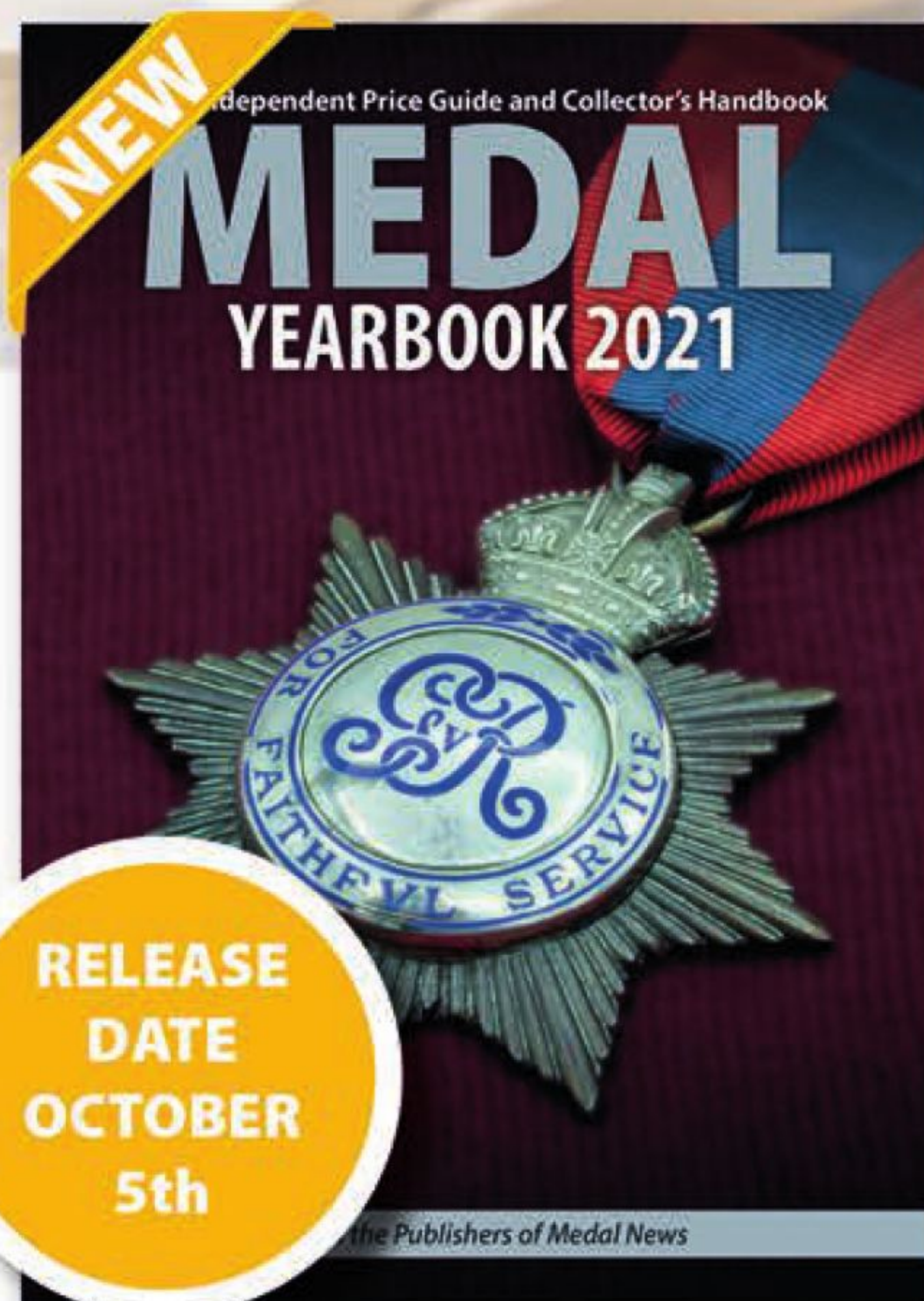
Navy Lists.

Passenger lists, census returns, Board of Trade certificates (via ancestry.co.uk).

George Mardon's medal for being one of the Worcester's winning crew in 1890. A nick on the medal makes the date difficult to read. The obverse is dominated by a seated figure of Neptune watching the race.



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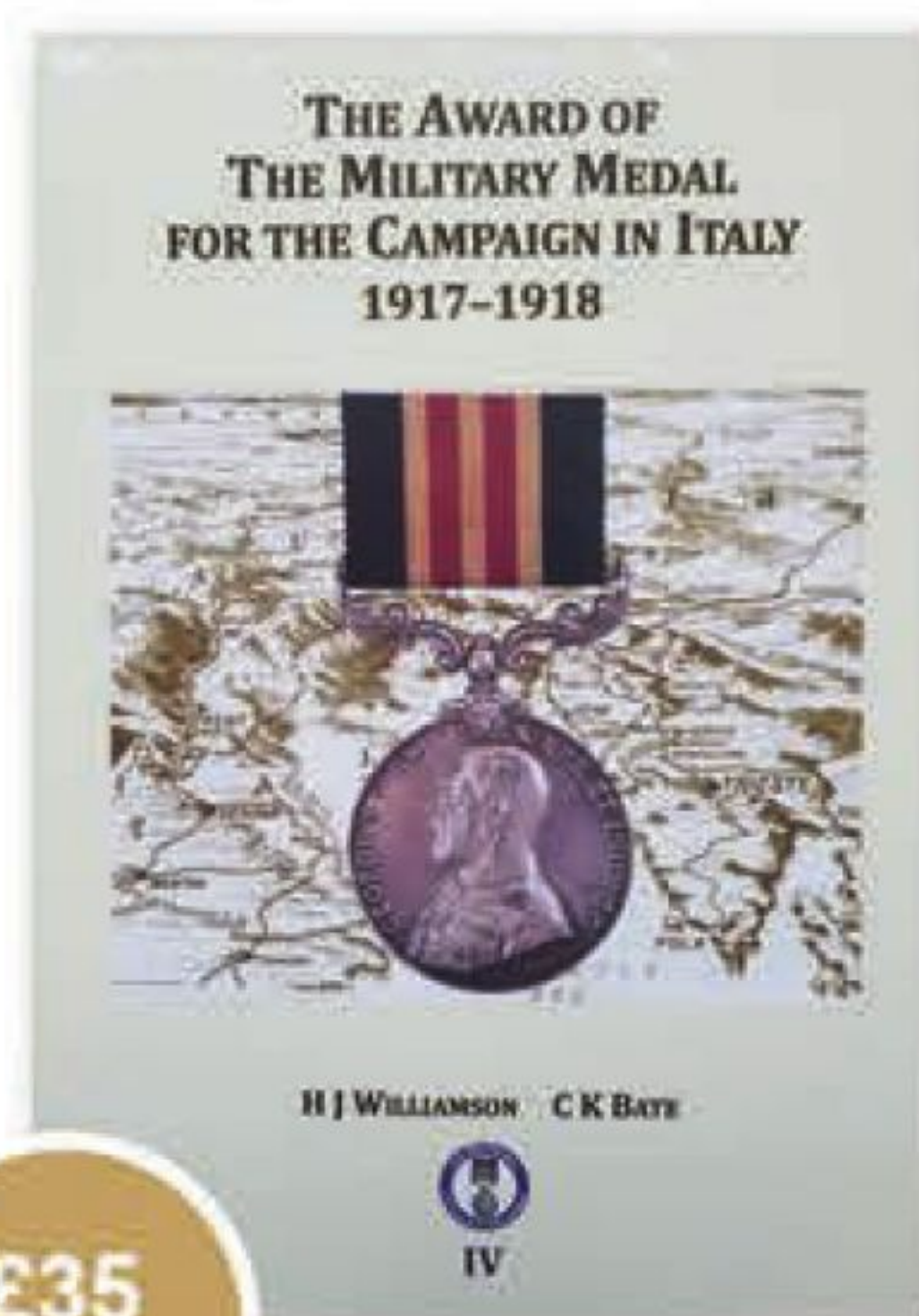
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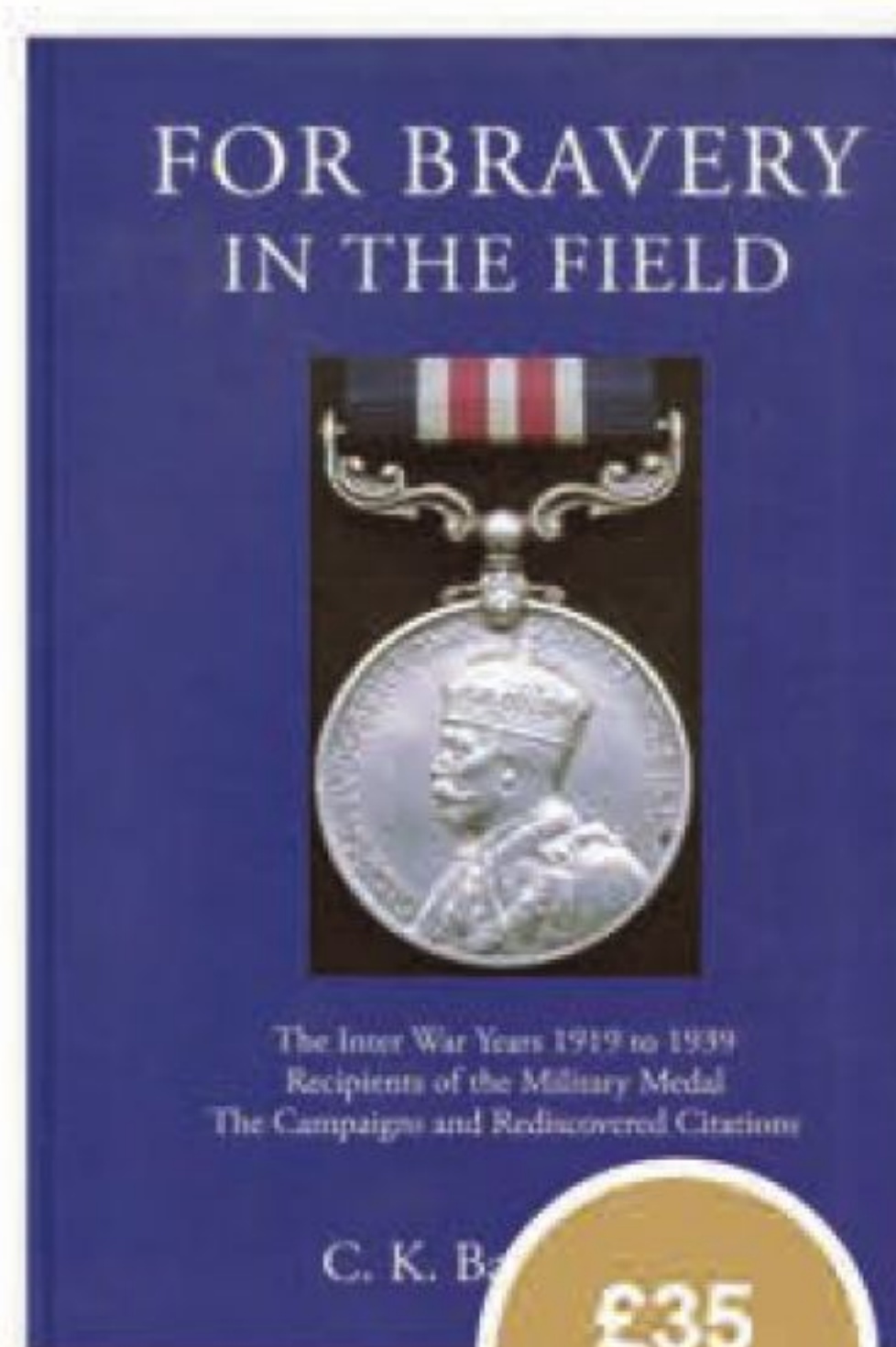
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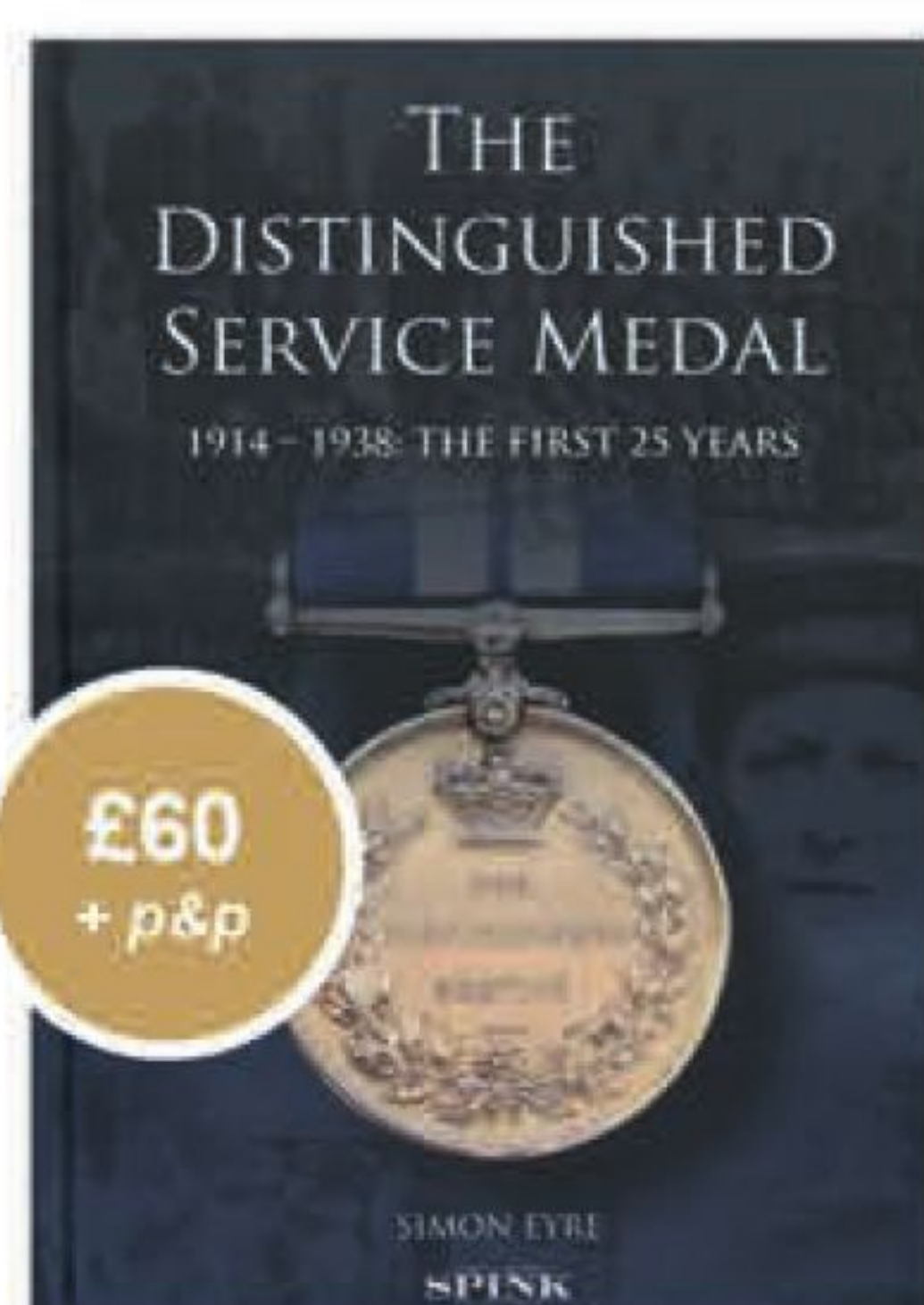
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The latest volume in Howard Williamson and Chris Bate's magnum opus on the Military Medal covers the Italian campaign of the last two years of World War I. Featuring a brief outline of the campaign and then a full nominal roll of those who received the MM for it (including Italian Nationals) the book also gives the schedule number roll and the registered paper number roll. These are further broken down by Regiments and individual units. The annotated roll of the DCMs awarded for the campaign is also included as are details about VCs won and Lord Cavan's despatches for the campaign. Details on the cemeteries where MM recipients are buried and even Italian Army ranks are also to be found in a book that literally covers every aspect of the campaign in Italy.

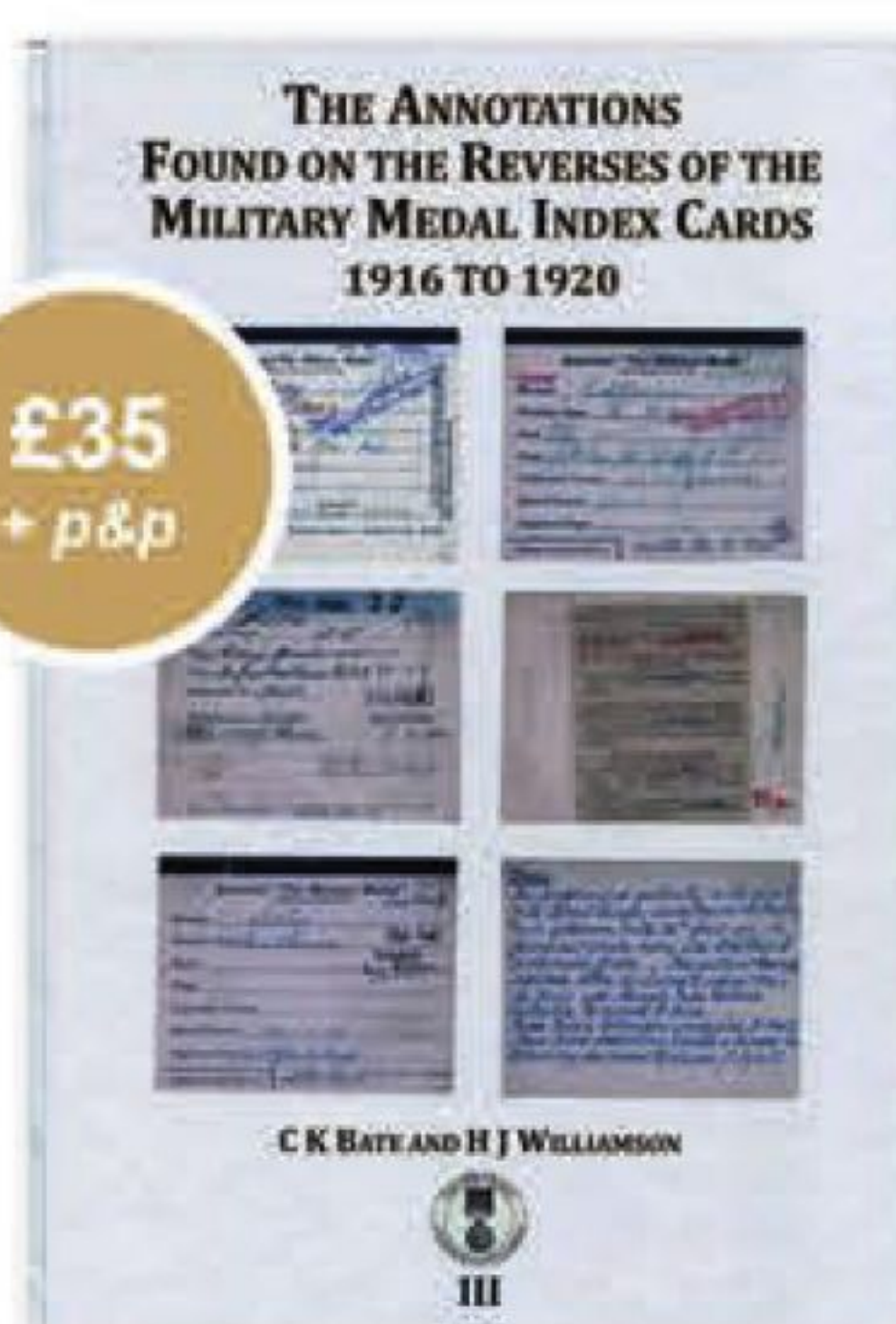


This new book is one of a number coming out in the next few months that will concentrate on the Military Medal. This one, by Chris Bate, looks at the awards, actions, and recipients for those Military Medals of the interwar period 1919-1939 which, naturally, included many awards for India. The book is divided up initially into theatres of war and actually starts with Waziristan Operations in 1917 (despite the book's cover which states it only covers from 1919!) moves on to Northern Turkana in 1918 and Afghanistan 1919 up to Palestine in 1936-39. A full alphabetical listing of recipients is also included, as are, very importantly, all the rediscovered citations!



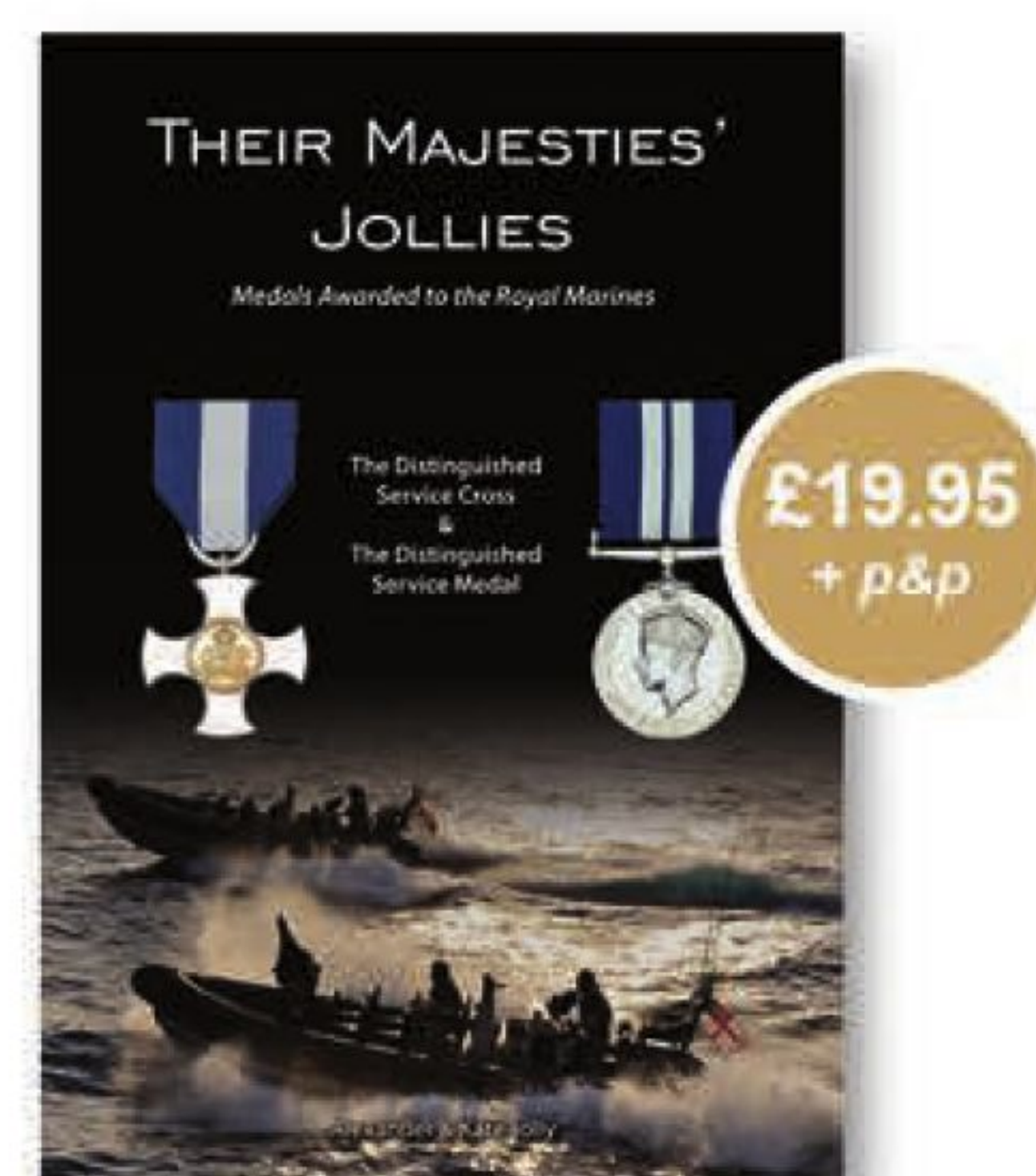
New from Simon Eyre comes a superb book on the first 25 years of the DSM. Looking at the history of the Distinguished Service medal from its inception at the start of World War I right up to the start of World War II, the 800+ page hardback book covers naming styles, research, medal presentations, recommendations, gives an analysis of the awards and a full nominal roll for all those awarded it—including foreign nationals. It is an

exceptional book that is essential for any Naval gallantry collector.



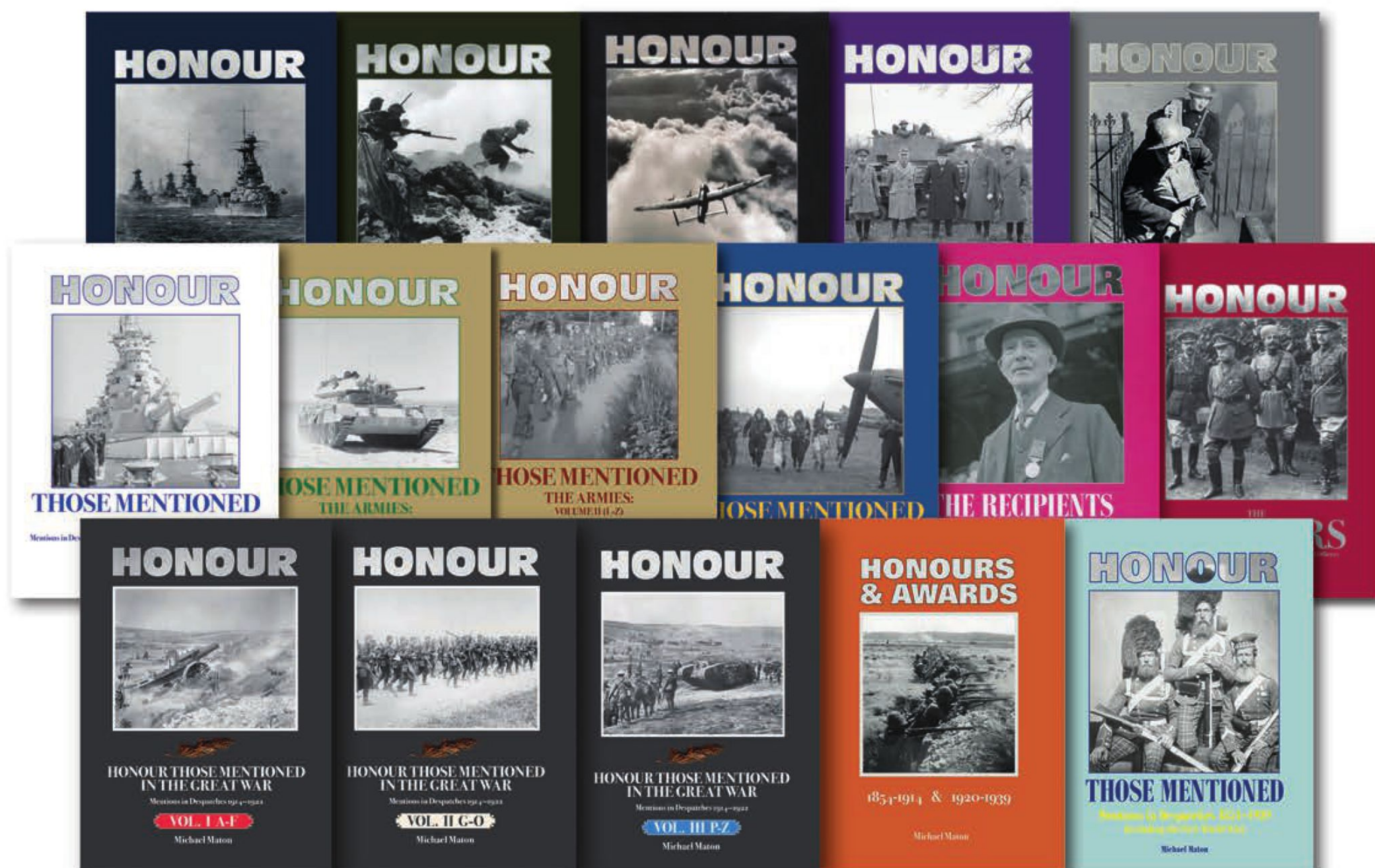
but now, for the first time, researchers can find out exactly what those little snippets were!

This book is exactly what it says it is—a full list of all of the annotations found on the back of the MM index cards for World War I. Often the card that was used to index the award contained useful biographical details of the recipient or details of the action for which the award was made—those notes have, until now, been overlooked



This book looks at the Royal Marine recipients of the prestigious Distinguished Service Cross and the Distinguished Service Medal since their inception.

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Church Lads' Brigade

Commemorative Medals

MEMBERS of the Church Lads' Brigade (CLB) were often thought to be bedizened with medals compared to another well-known Brigade for boys, which was renowned for its excellent badge scheme. CLB lads, however, were keen on their medals which were available for attendance, squad competitions, ambulance work, gallant conduct and long service. This article will consider the Royal Review and other Commemorative Medals issued by the CLB throughout the course of its history.

Still a number of years before the Boy Scouts appeared on the scene, the Boy's Brigade (BB) and the CLB, along with the London Diocesan Church Lads' Brigade (LDCLB), the Catholic Boys' Brigade (CBB) and the Jewish Lads' Brigade (JLB), were the major youth organisations of the day, enjoying much interest from members of the Royal Family. As part of the Coronation Celebrations, a Review of Brigades was planned for Saturday, June 14, 1902. As this was the Jewish Sabbath, the Jewish Lads' Brigade was unable to parade with the thousands of other Brigade members in front of the Prince of Wales (later King George V).

The CLB was the only one of the Brigades on Review that day to strike a medal. It featured the images of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra on a bronze medal with a red, white and blue ribbon. The brooch depicts the parts of the Brigade Badge, the Armour of God (from Ephesians, Chapter 6), including the breastplate of righteousness, the girdle (belt) of truth, the sword of the spirit, all surmounted by the helmet of salvation (it's value is about £20–30).

On June 27, 1908, to coincide with the Lambeth Conference of that year, a Review of the Church Lads' Brigade was conducted by the Duke of Connaught.

With hundreds of Anglican Bishops appearing in the capital, it was thought to be a wonderful opportunity to bring the CLB to the attention of these influential churchmen from all parts of the world. To mark the occasion a medal was issued to all in the Review, a medal with the Duke in bronze suspended from a green ribbon with the same brooch as used for the 1902 medal (value today £10–20).

On the reverse of the medals a space was left for an inscription. Sometimes the medals are found with the name of an individual member and at other times may have been inscribed with a Company name.



1902 Church Lad's Brigade Medal to mark the Coronation of King Edward VII who features alongside Queen Alexandra on a bronze medal with a red, white and blue ribbon.



1911 saw this medal struck to mark the Coronation of His Majesty George V.

The Duke of Connaught reviewed the Church Lad's Brigade on June 27, 1908 at the Lambeth Conference.





▲ Edward, Prince of Wales, was honoured on the 1927 CLB medal. The CLB Review was postponed from 1926 due to the General Strike.

◀ May, 7, 1932 saw a large parade to Westminster Abbey to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Founding of the Church Lads' Brigade. This medal was given to all those who attended.

Another medal was struck in 1911 to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King George V. Like many of the organisations who enjoyed the King's patronage, the Church Lads' Brigade was given a prominent position along the route of the Coronation Parade on June 22, and the Royal Progress the following day. On each day 100 Sergeants, especially selected from all parts of the United Kingdom, formed a splendid Guard of Honour on Constitution Hill. Hundreds of other CLB members, along with several hundred BB members, lined one side of London Bridge to view the proceedings. The medal, bearing the image of King George and

Queen Mary, was struck in bronze and hung from a red, white and blue ribbon.

Of these three early medals, the 1911 Constitution Hill medal is the rarest. The Reviews of 1902 and 1908 were attended by thousands of Brigade lads, whereas the 1911 medal is thought to have been issued only to the 200 Sergeants present on the Hill. This is borne out by the frequency that 1902 and 1908 medals appear on a well-known internet auction site compared to the extremely rare appearance of a 1911 medal (value £100+).

In 1926, there was much excitement in the Church Lads' Brigade as Edward, Prince of Wales, the most popular man

in the country at that time, had agreed to review the Brigade, in his capacity as Colonel in Chief of Cadets. Unfortunately, due to the General Strike of that year, the Review had to be postponed until 1927. Around 6,000 members of the CLB paraded in Hyde Park in front of the Prince, as well as a detachment of the Church Girls' Brigade. The bronze medal contains an image of the Prince of Wales with "Church Lads' Brigade Royal Review June 18, 1927 Present on Parade" on the reverse. The medal hangs from a ribbon of the Brigade colours (value £15-25).

On May, 7, 1932, there was a large Parade to Westminster Abbey to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Founding of the Church Lads' Brigade. Those who were in attendance were entitled to wear the medal struck at that time, a good quality bronze medal with an image of Westminster Abbey hung from a Brigade coloured ribbon (value £10-20).

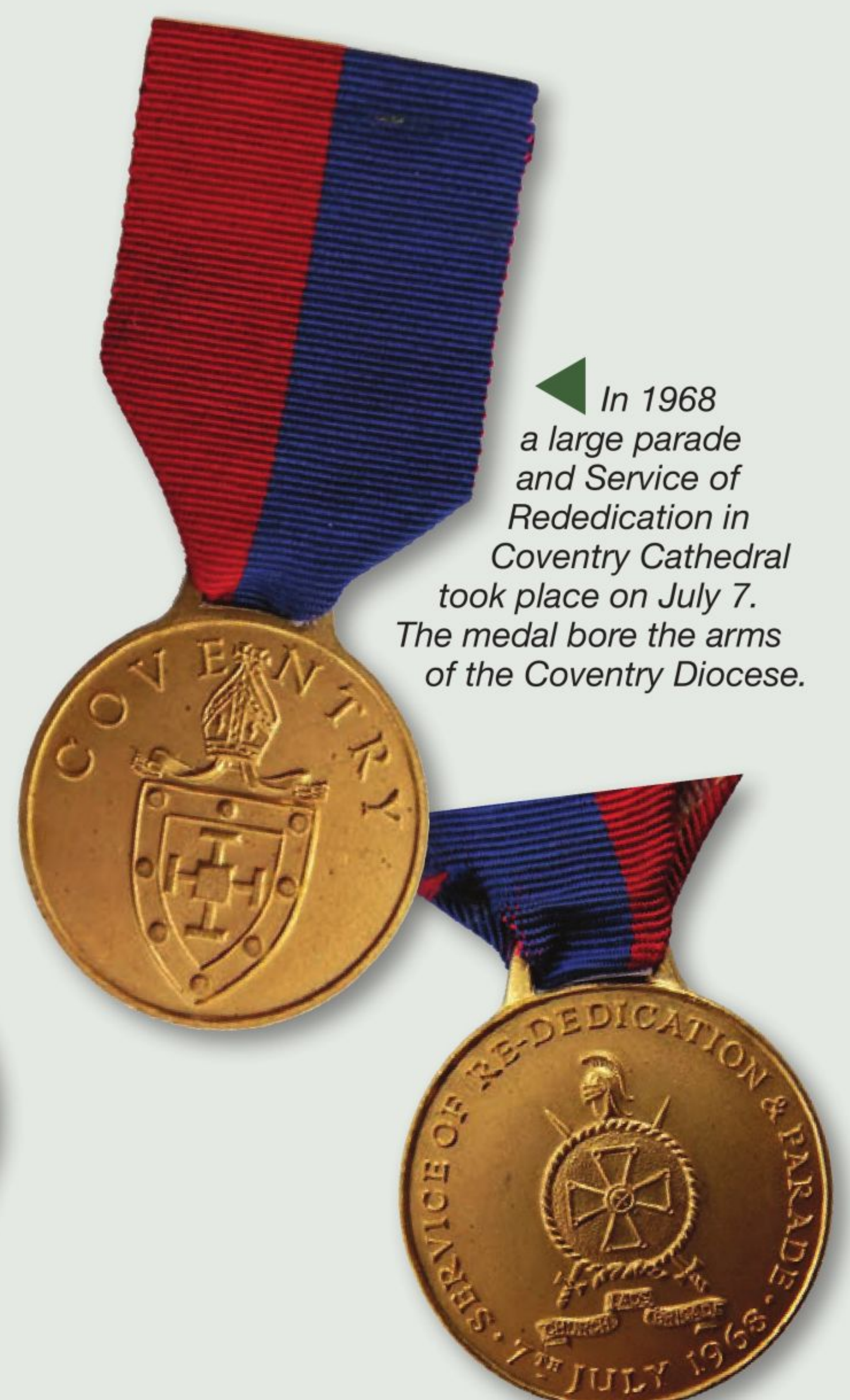
To coincide with the Lambeth Conference of 1958, the Brigade was to be Reviewed by Her Majesty the Queen. Unfortunately, Her Majesty was unwell and the Review was conducted by Princess Alexandra. The medal contains an image of Lambeth Palace and hangs from a purple ribbon, representing the Bishops of the Anglican Communion. It comes in two forms—one with just the ribbon and one with a small star. If a member was one of 500 chosen to represent the CLB on parade in front of Princess Alexandra in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, then they could wear the ribbon with the star. Other members who took part in the parade at Hyde Park or the Royal Albert Hall Display wore the medal without the star (value £10-20).



▲ The medal struck for the CLB Review of 1958 which, as it coincided with the Lambeth Conference, was to be reviewed by Her Majesty the Queen but, as she was unwell, was taken by Princess Alexandra. The 500 representatives who were chosen to parade in front of the Princess were entitled to a star on their ribbon.



▶ The 1963 Review took place in Windsor Castle in front of Her Majesty the Queen and marked the 70th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Brigade. The 500 chosen to parade in front of Her Majesty received a crown on their ribbon.



◀ In 1968 a large parade and Service of Rededication in Coventry Cathedral took place on July 7. The medal bore the arms of the Coventry Diocese.

As the Queen had not been able to review the Church Lads' Brigade due to illness in 1958, she graciously agreed to another Review in 1963. The Review took place in Windsor Castle and marked the 70th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Brigade and the medal, hung from a blue ribbon, reflected this. Again, a representative 500 members paraded in front of Her Majesty and they were entitled to wear a crown on the blue ribbon. At the same time there was a large Review in Manchester with those being Reviewed entitled to wear a medal without a crown on the ribbon (value £15–25).

Five years later, there was a large Parade and Service of Rededication in Coventry Cathedral. This took place on July 7, 1968 and a medal was struck bearing the arms of the Coventry Diocese and suspended from a ribbon of half red and half blue. This medal does not come up for auction very often, probably because they are still a prized possession of the owner (value £20–30).

In 1980, two years following the amalgamation of the CLB with the Church Girls' Brigade, Her Majesty the Queen again agreed to review the Brigade. Over 2,000 members were inspected by Her Majesty on a glorious July day in Windsor Great Park. A bronze medal with the Brigade badge and the wording "Royal Review Windsor Great Park 1980" was

issued, suspended from an ivory coloured ribbon. This medal was lightweight in comparison to the previous good quality medals and was seen as something of a disappointment at the time (value £5).

Founded in 1891, the Church Lads' Brigade is a uniformed youth organisation for the Anglican Church. Prior to World War I it joined the Government's Cadet Scheme and at one point constituted more than half of the UK's Cadet Force. It is estimated that 250,000 former members served in World War I when 21 Victoria Crosses were awarded. In 1936, the CLB was reorganised and Cadet status was abolished. In 1978 the CLB amalgamated with the Church Girls' Brigade. Strong companies of the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade can be found in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Canada, Kenya and South Africa.

Author Johnny Conn is a retired primary school teacher. He is a member of the Brigade's Historical Group and is responsible for the HG Magazine. Johnny is an avid collector of CLB memorabilia.



► Newly amalgamated with the Church Girls' Brigade, the 1980 Review took place at Windsor with Her Majesty once again inspecting the parade.

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Every now and again a miniature medal crops up at an auction with all of its known clasps. The two most commonly encountered are the Queen's South Africa Medal and the British War Medal with 26 and 68 clasps respectively. These multi-clasp medals are often referred to as tailor's samples so, as his job of medal mounting comes under this category, COLIN HOLE decided to emulate the practice with other miniature medals and having taken time to track them down, Colin shares some of the clasps that were awarded for . . .

SECONDARY SERVICE

The General Service Medal 1918–62 (MYB 174) with its 18 clasps and 6 issues was a good one to start with. The majority of the post-World War II clasps were in stock but a few were not and they proved quite difficult to track down. I had one of the early clasps in my collection but as luck would have it a fellow member of the Miniature Medals Branch of the OMRS offered me all six (figure 1). This is one of the benefits of mixing with like-minded people in a friendly society. These are incredible clasps for an amazing chapter in history, reflecting how the British Empire dealt with its problems. The top five clasps in figure 2 deal with the aftermath of World War II, while figure 3 deals mainly with the end of Empire and assisting in mini conflicts.

I thought I was nearing the end of my odyssey when two long-running campaigns for the award of retrospective medals came to a successful conclusion. Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd were quick to make the relevant clasps and supplied me with both of them, namely CANAL ZONE and BERLIN AIRLIFT. I also noticed they had BOMB & MINE CLEARANCE 1945-49 in stock so that was also added to the shopping cart. All of these are the slip-on type but the most desirable are miniature medals with fixed type clasps that replicate the full-size perfectly. Thoughts now turn to the NGSM 1909–62 (MYB 173)—17 clasps and 5 issues. Wish me luck.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

Further information about collecting miniature medals can be obtained from the Miniature Medals Branch Secretary at colin.hole15@gmail.com



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From the Archives

VICTORIA CROSS PROTOTYPE FOUND

Daily Telegraph Reporter

A Victoria Cross was found in a copper casket beneath the foundation stone of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hants, yesterday, 110 years after the award was instituted. The Army considers it to be the prototype.

It was on Jan. 29, 1856, that the Victoria Cross decoration was instituted by Royal Warrant. Four months later Queen Victoria opened the hospital. It is now being demolished.

Brig. Sir John Smyth, V.C., president of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association, said last night the Cross at Netley had no inscription on the reverse side and so was not a true V.C.



Col. J. F. D. Murphy, Officer Commanding, Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hants, displaying a prototype Victoria Cross and a Crimea Medal found yesterday in a copper casket during demolition of the hospital.

This snippet from the *Daily Telegraph* dated December 8, 1966 was sent in by Jon Bergholtz.
If you have anything you would like to share with others please send it to the Editor

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Write in and tell us your views on medal-related topics

While we endeavour to reply as quickly as possible, this can take some time. Please send letters to: address on page 1. If a reply is required, please enclose an SAE.

We are also happy to receive letters via email—send your letters to info@tokenpublishing.com. Here we publish a selection from the MEDAL NEWS postbag.

Awarded, not won

Dear Editor

I refer to Mr Davies' letter "A Question of Use", MEDAL NEWS, June/July 2020. I too find the use of the word "won" regarding gallantry awards very frustrating. All official honours and awards for valour, gallantry and distinguished service are announced in the London Gazette. A typical announcement by the Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, London SW1 or the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, St James's Palace, London SW1 would read: "The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned . . .".

Michael O'Brien

The hospital VC

Dear Editor

"Intrigued" (Letters, August 2020) felt it was a pity that there is no mention of the VC placed in the Netley Hospital foundation stone in any of the many publications on the VC or had he simply missed it?

I am pleased to advise Intrigued that it is mentioned in a paragraph on page 34 of *The Evolution of the Victoria Cross*, by M. J. Cross (Midas Books, 1975). The paragraph (including three references, in brackets) reads:

"No time was lost by the WO in ordering the manufacture of the new crosses, Mr Hancock being instructed on 4 March to prepare 106 specimens. (VCR, i p. 56). The Queen herself acknowledged the receipt of one of these from Panmure on 5 May of that year; (Panmure Papers, ii p. 217) this seems more likely to have been the specimen which was to be placed under the foundation-stone of Netley Hospital when she laid this on 19 May [recovered when that building was demolished in 1966] than the one requested for her own collection. (The Times, 27 June 1857)."

Anthony Staunton

Thanks to Anthony and the other readers who wrote in informing us of this useful snippet that we (and many others) were unaware of. Interestingly

next month we will be featuring an article on the prize medals won by students at Netley Hospital.—ED.

Getting it right

Dear Editor

I agree with your comment in "From the Editorial Desk" (June/July 2020) when you say that the word "won" has unfortunately passed into common usage when referring to the awarding of medals. My own "bête noire" is the World War I Memorial Plaque being referred to as "Dead Man's Penny", "Widow's Penny" or "Death Plaque". It is officially designated "The Memorial Plaque" and should be referred to as that on all occasions. Slang references to this memorial lends no dignity or respect to the sacrifice of the individual named thereon.

On another subject, I am somewhat disconcerted by Allan Stanistreet's review of our book *The Annotations found on the Reverses of the MM Index Cards* (MEDAL NEWS, August 2020). He states in his review that he "could find no mention that what was contained within might not be comprehensive". I can confirm that it is 100% comprehensive. In a nutshell the book contains all the entries made on the reverses of the MM cards. It is complete and furthermore we have added details from the MM rolls for additional information. When he says that "there may be a few that got away" and questions why other Albert Medallists besides R. Foley who were also awarded the MM do not appear, he seems to have missed the main point of the book. I can assure him that there are none missing as not all cards have annotations on their reverse and it is only those that have that are listed. The book is the only place where this information can be found as the PRO did not copy the reverses of the cards.

Simply for the record, Allan mentions that there were six Albert medallists who also received the MM. In fact there were only five. 2/Lt Stanley Reekie was not entitled to the MM although a citation appeared in the London Gazette.

Howard Williamson

A valid point

Dear Editor

Your Editorial last month ("Headline Act") has highlighted one of the blights that seems to haunt our otherwise straightforward hobby from time to time. The people who were found guilty of forging medals and passing them off as genuine deserve their punishment even though in this case the sentences seem rather light in my opinion. The judge was obviously not a collector otherwise I am sure they would have received more extreme sentences. However, what they have done will make everyone in the hobby take extra care and spend more time learning about the real thing so that must be a good thing surely? I hope none of your readers have been duped. I for one will continue to be on the lookout—as usual.

Eric Parsons

Why Belmont?

Dear Editor

One of the several strands to my collection is the Field Intelligence Department (FID) in South Africa during the Boer War (1899–1902). This was an embryo "Intelligence Corps" which unfortunately was disbanded at the end of the war in 1902. The FID provided the Army with interpreters, guides and scouts, many of whom were locally recruited, both whites and native Africans. A study of the FID medal roll (WO100/301) has produced interesting results.

The Medal Yearbook 2020, page 158, says: "A small number of bronze medals without a clasp were issued to bearers and servants in Indian units". My study of the roll shows that 260 native FID scouts received the QSA in bronze, 258 with the clasp Belmont and two with no clasps. Why Belmont was the only clasp given to native scouts is still unknown. Perhaps someone among your readers can enlighten me.

Mick Kippin

If any reader can shed light on this anomaly we, and Mr Kippin, would be delighted to hear from you.—ED.

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Ref	Name	No.	Rank	Regt./Unit/etc.	Medal sought
22514	ALESBURY Frederick				Memorial Plaque
22515	ARMSTRONG Thomas				Memorial Plaque
22516	BAILLIE C.	694	Sgt	1/5 Gordon Highlanders	1914–15 Trio, TFEM
22517	BOSWELL Joseph				Memorial Plaque
22518	BOUSFIELD J.	2582	Pte	RAMC	1914 Trio
22519	BOWERS A. H. M.		Capt	Durham LI	1914 Trio, Memorial Plaque
22520	CARROLL J.	18220	Pte	13 Welsh	1914–15 Star Trio, SWB
22521	CAVANAGH Bryan George				Memorial Plaque
22522	CHATER H. E.	8236	Lt Col	RCHA, RCOC.	Any WWII
22523	CROOKSHANK F. G.		Cpt	RAMC	1914–15 Star, BWM
22524	CURLING J.	51261	Bosin's Mate	RN	Egypt
22525	DODD D.		Lt	RN	BWM
22526	FRANCIS S.		Trooper	2 Life Guards	Egypt, Khedive Star
22527	GALLOWAY Charles				Memorial Plaque
22528	GEE A.	1408076	Sgt	RGA	BWM, GSM
22529	GOW J.	6972	Pte	1 Gordon Highlanders	QSA
22530	GREEN C.	250264	Sgt		Any WWI
22531	GRUNDY M. D.	369015	Pte	WRAC	GSM
22532	HALSTEAD S. J.	205928	OSM	RN	DSM
22533	HARDY G.		Ships Cook	RN	South Africa 1879
22534	HEAD R.	193121	AB	RN	1914–15 Trio
22535	HEATH John				Memorial Plaque
22536	HEBDITCH A.	19064	Pte	Yorks & Lancs	WWI Pair
22537	HEBDITCH A.	3197	Pte	15 West Yorkshire	WWI Trio
22538	HEBDITCH V. T.	1697	Cpl	2 Yorks & Lancs	Egypt & Khedives Star
22539	HESLOP Edward Dinning				Memorial Plaque
22540	HESLOP G. C.		Cpt	Durham LI	WWI Pair
22541	HEXT J. E.		Lt	15 Imp Yeo	QSA
22542	HICKMAN G. A.	13444	Pte	1 Gren Guards	1914 Star Trio
22543	HULME James	2486	Pte	8 Manchester	1914–15 Trio, Memorial Plaque
22544	JACKS Harold				Memorial Plaque
22545	Mc CLELLAND E. W.	2914	Pte/Capt	Leinster	1914–15 Star, Victory
22546	MOLLISON J. D.	6577	Pte	19 R.Fusiliers	WWI Star Trio
22547	NEW T. E.	65752	Acting Stoker/ PO,	Royal Navy	CGM
22548	NUNNS J.		Captain	Newfoundland	MC, BWM
22549	PURCELL G. J.	25131270	Trooper	Household Cavalry	Iraq
22550	REASON J. D.	9586	Marine	Royal Marine	GSM
22551	SPURLING J.	1127	Cpl	63 Foot	DCM, Crimea
22552	TAIT H.	2809075	Sgt	7 S/Forth Highlanders	DCM, MM, IGS
22553	TERRY F.	4870/S–24741	Pte	E Lancs	1914 Trio, QSA, KSA, LSGC
22554	USHER R. C.	12490	L/Cpl	Essex	WWI Pair
22555	WALDRON G. C.	15213/270532	Trooper	74 Imp Yeo/RN	QSA, DSM, WWI Trio
22556	WARREN G.	8048	CSM	Hampshire	DCM
22557	YATES G. B.	643	Cpl	RA	BWM, TFWM, TFEM
22558	ADE I.	75	Pte	WAFF	Ashanti
22559	BURGESS W.		Pte	RASC	WWI Pair
22560	DOCHERTY A.	12418	Pte	1 Scots Rifles	MM, WWI Pair
22561	DUTTON Richard		2 Lieut	RFC	1914–15 Star Trio, Memorial Plaque
22562	EAGLE W. J.	126	QM/Sgt	OX Bucks LI	1914–15 Star
22563	EAGLE W. J.		Lieut	RASC	GSM
22564	ELSTON Fred	201714	Pte	R Lancaster	WWI Pair, Memorial Plaque
22565	ENTWISTLE Albert Herbert	241570	Pte	R Lancaster	WWI Pair, Memorial Plaque
22566	FENNEMORE George		2 Lieut	RE	Memorial Plaque
22567	FESSEY R.	2384	Pte	RMLI	BWM, LSGC
22568	FRANCIS F.		Constable	City of London Police	Queen Victoria Jubilee
22569	FURZEMAN J. T.	240064	Sgt	Devon	WWI Pair
22570	GATEHOUSE F.	202417	Pte	Rifle Brigade	WWI Pair
22571	GATEHOUSE F.	4606	Pte	Yorkshire	QSA
22572	GODDARD J.	8577	Gunner	RMA	1914–15 Trio
22573	GOLDSWORTHY Morley	16897	Pte	DCLI	WWI Pair, Memorial Plaque
22574	HEDGES A.	3720	Sgt	RMLI	BWM, LSGC

Ref	Name	No.	Rank	Regt./Unit/etc	Medal sought
22575	HOLMAN W. J.				ISM
22576	HOWARD H.	3/9679	Pte	Yorkshire	WWI Pair
22577	ISBISTER A.	B/6932	L Cpl	2 Scot Rifles	MM, WWI Pair
22578	JOHAR S. T.		Pte	4 Gurkhas	Afganistan, Kadar to Kandahar
22579	JOHNSTON G. F. G.	266	L Cpl	14 London	TFEM
22580	KAY R. D.		Captain	2 Bangel Native Inf	Candahar–Ghuznee–Cabul
22581	KING W. H.	3193	Cpl	Yorkshire	IM
22582	KIPLIN Franklin James		2 Lieut	RGA	1914–Trio, Memorial Plaque
22583	KNIGHT A. H.	10412	L Cpl	RMLI	WWI Pair
22584	LATHAM C. S.	3286	Sgt	14 London	MM & WWI Trio
22585	LEWIS John Charles				Memorial Plaque
22586	LIMPENNY H. H.		Sto 1	RN	BWM
22587	LOCK W.	3–37351	Pte	Devon	WW1 Pair
22588	MACKINDER E.	1564	Pte	West Yorks	1915 Star, Victory
22589	MACKINDER J.	3907	Pte	KRRC	BWM
22590	MAPP F. G.		PO	RN	WWII Group with Stars
22591	MARGETTS H. P.		Lieut	RN	Victory, 1914–15 Star
22592	MARTIN Charles				Memorial Plaque
22593	McKEEN R.	4066	Pte	1/3 Foot	IGS, Perak
22594	McLELLAN J.	1493	Pte	8 Argyll & Sutherland Hldrs	MM, WWI Trio
22595	MORGAN J.	8016	Pte	KRRC	QSA
22596	NISBETT D.	3111	Sgt	14 London	1914–15 Trio
22597	NORMAN G.	1628/01144	Pte/A Cpl	Devon	WWI Pair, TFWM
22598	OAKEY W. F.	1234	Sgt	Berks Yeomanry	WWI Pair
22599	PELLING A. W.	G–6569	Pte	R Sussex	WWI Pair
22600	PHILPIN J. W.	1798	Pte/Cpl	Welsh Guards	WWI Pair
22601	PICKARD W. H.	34905	Pte	DCLI	WWI Pair
22602	POMFRET J.	1348/375133	Sgt	1/10 Manchester	BWM, SWB
22603	POOLE A.	65135	Pte	M Gun Corps	Victory
22604	PUTT G. H.	91079	Gunner	RA	WWI Pair
22605	REECE R. A.	4350	Pte	AIF	WWI Pair
22606	REECE R. A.			RNR	WWI Pair
22607	RICHARDSON J.		Cpl	2 Foot	South Africa
22608	ROBERTS J. E.	F12035	Act AM 1	RNAS	Victory & Others
22609	ROSMOND W.	3202	Pte	19 Foot	Crimea
22610	ROWBOTHAM		Lieut/Capt	SA Colonials/WelshQSA,	1915 Trio
22611	ROWE F.	9091	Pte	KRRC	KSA
22612	SINGH K.	3022	Hav	10/13 FFR	1914–15 Trio
22613	SKITTRALL H. T.	4085	Sto 1	RN	WW1 Pair
22614	SLY F. B.	242706	Sgt	ASC	1914–15 Star
22615	SMITH Alfred Ernest		Ass Baker	MN	Memorial Plaque
22616	SMITH A. F. J.	17160	Driver	RFA	WWI Pair
22617	SMITH J.	185566	Gnr	RFA/RA	Victory
22618	SOUTHGATE J.	2286	C Sgt	VB Wilts	LSGC
22619	THOMAS William				Memorial Plaque
22620	TORRANCE A. B.	3691	Sgt	14 London	1914–15 Trio
22621	TRUDGEON Gregory	12659	Pte	SAI	WWI Pair, Memorial Plaque
22622	TURNER H. F. B.		Capt	Wilts	BWM
22623	WALLIS George Samuel	7120	Pte	Northumberland Fusiliers	Memorial Plaque
22624	WALLIS R. O.			VAD St Johns	WWI Pair, Service
22625	WARK J.	200790	Pte	5/6 Scot Rifles	MM, WWI Pair,
22626	WARLAND Maurice G.		2 Lieut	Wilts	Memorial Plaque
22627	WEBB F. S. G.		Fire Officer	London Fire Brigade	Long Service
22628	WEBSTER D.	179439	Driver	RFA	WWI Pair

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Tel/email:

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Please note this form is for inclusion in MEDAL NEWS magazine only. If you wish to have your medal included free of charge (subscribers and non-subscribers) on our website then please visit www.medaltracker.com to fill in the online form.

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AUCTIONS, FAIRS & SOCIETIES IN SEPTEMBER

AUCTIONS				
Date	Event	Venue/Location	Auctioneer	Contact Details
September 11	Medal, Coin and Banknote Auction	West Plaza Hotel, Wellington, New Zealand	MOWBRAY COLLECTABLES	+64 6 364 8270 auctions@mowbrays.co.nz www.mowbrays.co.nz
September 12 – 13	Auction of Medals and Militaria	52 Barrack Square, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP5 3RF	LOCKDALES	01437 627110 www.lockdales.com
September 17	Auction of Orders, Decorations, Medals and Militaria	Online	DNW	020 7016 1700 medals@dnw.co.uk
September 23	Auction of Medals and Coins	51–61 Castle Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3SU	WOOLLEY & WALLIS	01722 341469 nc@woolleyandwallis.co.uk www.woolleyandwallis.co.uk
SOCIETIES				
Date	Event	Venue/Location	Organiser	Contact Details
September 5	Please call for confirmation	Email for details	OMRS (NORTHERN BRANCH)	01925 753039 OMRSNORTH@outlook.com
September 7	Please call for confirmation	Britannia Hotel, Dialstone Lane, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 6AG	STOCKPORT MILITARIA COLLECTORS SOCIETY	01709 557622 www.stockportmilitaria.org
September 8	Please call for confirmation	Clyst St George Village Hall, Woodbury Road, Clyst St George, Exeter, EX3 0RE	WEST OF ENGLAND MEDAL & MILITARIA CLUB	j_lee-smith@sky.com
September 14	Please call for confirmation	Gillingham Golf Club, Woodlands Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 2AP.	OMRS (KENT BRANCH)	01634 851912
September 15	Please call for confirmation	Nicholson Centre, RAF Boscombe Down, Wilts, SP4 0JE	OMRS (WESSEX BRANCH)	kasplin@forces-war-records.co.uk
September 21	Please call for confirmation	The Fairmile, Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1BW.	OMRS (SURREY BRANCH)	01932 229281
September 28	Please call for confirmation	Spink, 67-69 Southampton Row, London, WC1B 4ET	OMRS (LONDON BRANCH)	07990 506292 robert.bartrop@btinternet.com
September 29	Please call for confirmation	Henfield Club, The Pump House, High Street Henfield, BN5 9HD.	OMRS (SUSSEX BRANCH)	01243 823616 paultur20@hotmail.com

AS GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS CONTINUE IN THE FACE OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, MANY EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. PLEASE CHECK WITH ORGANISERS BEFORE SETTING OFF ON YOUR JOURNEY TO ANY OF THE EVENTS YOU ATTEND ON A REGULAR BASIS.

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SOUGHT BY GRANDSON; WALL Llewellyn William, Pte 33144, Hampshire Regt, any WWI medals. ALSO my Great Uncle, WALL Cecill John, Pte 30615, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, any WWI medals and Memorial Plaque. Wishing to purchase or learn of their whereabouts. Please email wbw.ip.southwell@gmail.com or text to 07896 781224. (09/20)

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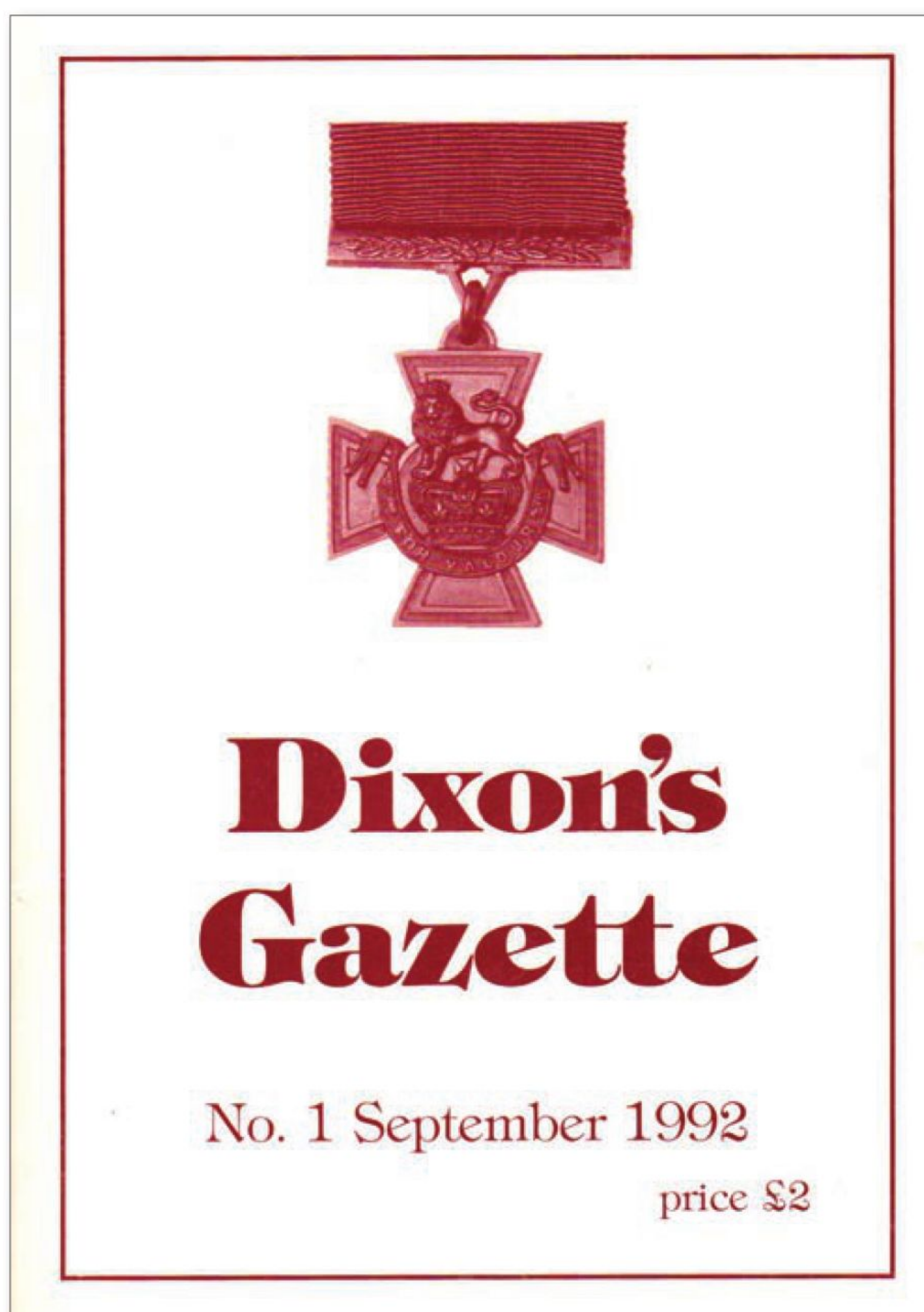
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